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Latin America Report

No. 2602



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STATE INTERFERENCE IN OIL CONTRACT RENEGOTIATIONS SCORED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Oct 82 p 6

[Text] Our oil industry has had poor results since 1975. The production of oil has grown at the very modest rate of 3.85 percent a year. The history of this sector clearly shows that when the state monopoly or regulations are lightened, production rises, and in the opposite case, it stagnates or declines during periods of a strong YPF [Government Oil Deposits] monopoly or strict regulation. Between 1925 and 1935, a time when hydrocarbons were owned by the provinces and the provinces granted concessions to firms competing on an equal footing with YPF, production grew at a rate of 9 percent a year (15.5 percent a year for the private companies, and 4.2 percent for YPF). After 1935, when law 12.161 granted predominance in the oil industry to YPF, the rate of growth declined to 7.1 percent a year until 1953, and between 1943 and 1951, when the restrictions on private activity became total, production fell by 0.2 percent a year. Then until 1957, as YPF's activities improved, production resumed at a more satisfactory level of 5.5 percent a year, but even that is very far from satisfying our growing national consumption needs.

So it wasn't until 1959, with the oil contracts signed during the time of Dr Arturo Frondizi, that production began to accelerate. The annual rate of increase between 1958 and 1962 was 23.6 percent, which was almost enough to take care of our own oil supplies.

But the cancelation of these contracts during Dr Illia's presidency again reduced the rate of expansion of the oil industry to a virtual stagnation level: an annual rate of increase between 1963 and 1966 of 1.6 percent. New negotiations with private companies brought about a good rate of increase between 1966 and 1973: 7.1 percent a year, but unfortunately, the

administrative chaos prevailing at YPF during the Peron administration caused something strange to happen: production fell by 3 percent a year between 1973 and 1976.

Now the nation is again confronted with a situation in which oil production is being reduced, even though the current situation is certainly not as serious. In 1981 production stagnated, and this year there is a small but growing decline in production. The reason is clear: the incentives offered to YPF's contractors have been cut, and contracts for new areas are at a standstill.

After nearly 2 years of moving backward and forward, it seems that renegotiations with the contractors are finally about to begin, in accordance with a decree whose signing has been delayed. But the presidential authorization to YPF (why should YPF need an authorization?) to renegotiate the contracts will apparently contain a limitation that is very typical of the stupidly centralist thinking of our administration: the new contracts will have to be signed subject to approval by the executive. This means that the board of directors of YPF, the largest state enterprise, does not enjoy the full confidence of the president. If the board did have the president's confidence, why would the president want to approve the arrangements made by this board? Especially on an issue as technical and specialized as the oil contracts, and considering the fact that the president of YPF has lengthy and well proved experience in such matters.

The renegotiations also have some strange features that make clear the innate and ill-founded lack of confidence on the part of the government toward private parties. The renegotiated contracts are to offer a higher price than the current price for quantities of petroleum extracted by the contractors over and above the originally agreed upon minimum levels. Logically, then, the bonus will have to be sufficiently attractive so that the contractors will work harder to produce more oil. That is the whole point of this bonus. The ways in which it is to be done should be left up to the discretion of the contractors. As an example, they might make better use of their present equipment or increase their investments. If they can achieve the objective of higher production with a minimum of investment, that is good. And it would be even better if they could produce more with no added investment at all.

But that is not what is being done. The government does not believe in the price stimulus. It doesn't believe it will be enough to induce the private contractors to do whatever is

necessary to earn this bonus. The government is requiring, along with each renegotiation, that the contractors discuss this issue and promise to make the investments that YPF considers necessary to obtain more oil. This additional matter for negotiation, plus the supervision by the national executive of these contracts, will mean further delays in achieving an urgent objective: increasing our petroleum production.

In the meantime, there is constant talk about an economic recovery. We are almost tempted to say that the real danger is that it might happen, and then we might find that the balance of trade, which is today favorable to Argentina in terms of oil, is the sole result of the very serious economic depression which has halted an expansion in consumption. If a recovery were actually to occur, consumption would also rise, and that would show the precarious nature of this positive balance of trade.

Given the very serious context of our balance of payments, Argentina can not afford the luxury of increasing its oil exports. A 10 percent increase in consumption would force us to import the equivalent of our wheat exports, unless, of course, oil production also increased. What must be given top priority now is to take every step to avoid any waste in our energy consumption.

7679
CSO: 3348/33

IMPORTANT GAS, OIL FIND IN COMODORO RIVADAVIA

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 3 Oct 82 p 14

[Text] YPF [Government Oil Deposits] has discovered gas and oil--a find which specialists consider important for the area--in the central region, generally felt to be declining, of its Comodoro Rivadavia territory, at several levels of its well CH 2267..

The well, with a depth of 2383 meters, is located at the top of a hill overlooking the city; it is in part of area C of the field.

The first data on output list for one of the levels 230 cubic meters of oil per day and 65,000 cubic meters of gas per day.

Strong Pressure

This level, 3 meters thick, was drilled with a 4-inch shaft with a wellhead opening of 19 millimeters. During the first hours it produced 11,500 liters of oil per hour and 2,700 cubic meters of gas per hour.

The initial dynamic pressure was 34 kilos/square centimeter. Yesterday when LA NACION's reporters reached the area, production had stabilized at 9500 liters of crude per hour, while the gas production was staying at the same pressure as in the beginning. In mid-afternoon the burner was turned off and they began to drill through another five upper levels, in which studies indicate the probable presence of hydrocarbons.

In all the well has nine levels of interest. One of the first of these produced an output less than indicated, of about 300 liters of petroleum per hour.

The drilling was completed at the end of last week by a crew provided by the contractor, Astraforf, which then turned its production over to YPF.

Encouraging Series

Tests began the day before yesterday, governed by the usual safety precautions, with the success already described.

Last night work continued with the expectation that at any moment the flames of the separator might announce the testing of another of the productive levels. We should point out that this find of light, low density crude, and the presence of a large gas field, made through a series of new wells located very close together, is giving very encouraging results. The field is located just 2 kilometers away from the city to the northeast, thus bordering the city's growth.

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CSO: 3348/33

YPF PRESIDENT ON DEFICIT, CAUSES

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Sep 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] The president of YPF [Government Oil Deposits], Dr Juan Bustos Fernandez, stated that if the rates of the petroleum enterprises had been updated starting in 1978, based on the agricultural wholesale price index [sic], at this time its finances would be in excellent condition. He further confirmed that this year the balance of trade for petroleum and byproducts will be favorable, by an amount of approximately \$270 million.

During a press conference held at YPF, the official said that the debt amounts to \$4.5 billion, and that during the first 9 months of this year, the deficit amounted to about 13 billion pesos, which is over \$300 million.

When questioned about what steps will be taken to turn this situation around, he said that this should be done by means of a gradual but not drastic rate increase, and by raising the price that the producer receives, in order to provide an incentive to stimulate a larger petroleum production.

Nonetheless, he pointed out that at the present time the contractors receive very low prices. As an example, he indicated that the average price earned per cubic meter is \$35, while the international price is about \$600 [sic]. "This means that contractors in Argentina receive a price that is 4 to 5 times lower than in the rest of the oil producing countries."

Projects

The head of YPF indicated that a number of projects are now being prepared to produce more oil; these include the conversion of distilleries, which will mean a savings of crude petroleum of about 6 million cubic meters a year. He also reported that this year about 950 wells will be drilled.

He rejected the reports charging that a recovery of YPF's productive apparatus is impossible, reaffirming that YPF is efficient, and that it produces petroleum for a cost that is 2 times less than the cost in the international market.

Deficit

Bustos Fernandez said that the firm's deficit is not the result of any inefficiency on the part of its staff. "What is happening," he added, "is that the rates YPF is paid for its products are not based on reality." If, starting in 1978, these rates had been updated, based on the nonagricultural wholesale price index, the firm's debt "would now be zero."

At the present time these rates are barely a fourth or fifth of the international rates. "Of course, we can not ask the government to double our rates. This rate change must come about gradually, not drastically."

He explained that YPF had to begin borrowing in 1978. "YPF is an organization which acts at times like a public enterprise, and at other times like a private company."

The first case occurs when its rates are set much lower than its costs. When a public enterprise operates at a deficit, it is subsidized. But on the contrary, YPF was told that if it could not meet its costs and produce more petroleum, it should borrow. That is why we now have a debt of \$4.5 billion.

As to the composition of this debt, he said that it is a financial type of debt, since it was not used to purchase capital equipment, but to balance the firm's deficit.

He further reported that the magnitude of the financial charges is quite erratic, since the debt is in dollars, and accounting is done in [Argentine] prices. Consequently, on one hand the balance is left subject to the effects of inflation, and on the other, to ups and downs in the exchange rate.

Oil Contracts

While speaking of the oil contracts, he said that no official decision has yet been made. When he was asked if it were true that the contracts would be renegotiated one by one starting in October, he replied: "That may be true, but when we have the decree on the contracts, we will then give the public clear information on this matter."

Costs

Dr Bustos Fernandez said at another point in his press conference that Argentina produces petroleum at a cost that is practically half of the international petroleum production cost.

"We are doing this, even though the productivity of a well in this country is much less than that of a well in the Middle East." He said that in Argentina a well produces about 11 cubic meters, while a well in Saudi Arabia produces about 800 cubic meters.

He explained that in order to compensate for this difference, we would need about 65 wells more.

Visual Identification

The head of YPF also told the journalists about a gradual plan to return to a visual identification system for the firm's service stations, using blue and white, its traditional colors, as its symbols.

He said that this implementation will be done so that it will not cause any extraordinary costs, at a time when the nation needs to practice a spartan form of austerity.

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CSO: 3348/33

BRIEFS

YPF BANKRUPT--The secretary of energy, Dr Alieto Guadagni, said that the assets of YPF [Government Oil Deposits] "not only do not exist, but even worse, there is actually a negative balance of about \$1 billion." The official remarked that YPF, from an accounting point of view, is bankrupt; he said that since 1978 the company has had problems with its earnings because it has not been allowed to charge remunerative prices for the crude it produces and for the products and byproducts processed in its refineries. Guadagni, speaking in Ezeiza before leaving for Rio de Janeiro to take part in a meeting of the Latin American Institute for Economic Integration, said that YPF's situation has not been caused by poor management, but by a mistaken price policy. He was then asked about solutions to turn this situation around. "Finding an immediate solution is a utopian dream," said the official, adding: "If fuel prices were increased, this would cause a rise in the cost of living. If we were to turn to payments from the national treasury, the deficit would be shifted to another sector." Nonetheless, Dr Guadagni pointed out that one way to resolve the problem is to proceed with a gradual correction of YPF's cost and price structure. "In so doing," he said, "the treasury will have to reduce its participation to reasonable limits." [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Sep 82 p 5] 7679

OIL PRODUCTION--In August our oil production declined by 2,654 cubic meters, compared with the same month of 1981, dropping from 2,382,477 to 2,379,823 cubic meters. According to statistics supplied by YPF [Government Oil Deposits], production during the first 8 months of this year was also down, by about 378,934 cubic meters. Between January and August of 1982 18,543,677 cubic meters were extracted, while in the same period of 1981 production was 18,922,611 cubic meters. Increases in the amount extracted by the government in the last 2 months provided a production 24,937 cubic meters over what was produced in the same way during the first 8 months of the past year. In August the number of completed wells was up. This year 66 had been completed by August, while in August 1981 the number of completed wells was 57. In terms of processing, YPF announced that in August it had processed 1,710,815 cubic meters, compared with 1,828,520 cubic meters in August 1981. Between January and August the total amount of crude processed in YPF's refineries was 13,317,905 cubic meters. In 1981 this figure was 14,045,939 cubic meters. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Sep 82 Sec 2 p 3] 7679

BRIEFS

RAILROAD INTERCONNECTION--A railroad interconnection has been implemented between Paraguay and Uruguay through the Argentine Urquiza Railroad Line and the bridge over the Salto Grande Dam. The agreements for the implementation of the international railroad traffic between Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay were agreed upon after a week of intensive negotiations carried out in Montevideo with the participation of railroad representatives from the three countries. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Sep 82 p 9 PY]

BRAZILIAN ARMY OFFICER ARRIVES--Brig Gen Eduardo Lopez Texeira, deputy chief of staff of the Brazilian Army, arrived in the country yesterday for a friendly visit. Lopez Texeira will carry out a tight agenda of activities in Paraguay, which includes visits to army units and meetings with army officers. Brig Gen Lopez Texeira will be received today by the chief of staff of the army and by officials of the Defense Ministry. [Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 4 Oct 82 p 5 PY]

PERUVIAN, BRAZILIAN CONGRESSMEN ARRIVE--Eng Celso Sotomarino, vice president of the Peruvian Chamber of Deputies, and Haroldo Sanford, vice president of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, are currently visiting Paraguay for the purpose of contacting Paraguayan congressmen to exchange views on development and population, subjects that will be discussed during a hemispheric congressmen's conference that will be held in Brasilia. [Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 4 Oct 82 p 3 PY]

BALANCE OF TRADE--The balance of trade had a deficit of \$74,549,300 during the first 8 months of 1982. The last issue of the Central Bank's statistics bulletin reports that imports totaled \$356,191,300 and exports totaled \$281,642,000 during this period. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Oct 82 p 8 PY] Imports totalled \$38,050,000 during August 1982, a 40 percent drop compared with July 1982. Similarly, exports totaled \$40,844,000 during August. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Oct 82 p 9 PY]

CSO: 3348/67

CRITERIA USED IN NEWS SELECTION EXPLAINED

Havana UPEC in Spanish May-Jun 82 pp 38-43

[Article by Heriberto Cardoso; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in bold-face]

[Text] A Few Definitions

The problems having to do with the acquisition or selection of a topic, gleaned from information and journalistic processing, are very closely related to the study of the /journalistic or news situation/, the /news sources/ and the news item, the typical form through which journalism par excellence is expressed.

Many writers, however, do not distinguish these three concepts from one another, identifying them as a unique phenomenon or at least neglecting to individually analyze each of them and its effect on the quality of the journalistic opus.

We will begin by defining a news item as an account, communication, exposition or explanation of one or several true, unpublished, communicable and current events which are of general interest.

Unlike writers who assure us that a news item "is a real event..." in conceptual terms we insist that it is not the event but a specific way of reflecting the latter, that is, an account or narration of the event. As such, a news item is conditioned by a specific way of approaching the objective reality for which the journalist is responsible, one subject to the latter's ideological and psychological influence, his intention of publishing it, his degree of mastery of the professional technique involved and knowledge of the subject and to the specific circumstances governing the channel through which he is attempting to communicate, his readers and the space and time available for him to compose and place it. His task is based on news objectives and on their role in terms of the general function the press ought to perform.

/The journalistic or news situation/ is of primary importance, the basis for the news item, /the reality/, the event that potentially presents us with an infinite gamut of journalistic possibilities and which endows the news item with its real, current, interesting and newsworthy elements. John on and Harris, the authors of "The Professional Reporter," define an event as "any incident or detail which is of sufficient interest in itself to be worth reporting."¹

By virtue of this criterion, if we accept it as valid, we may infer that it is in reality here that we find the true "raw material" or basic core of the genres or forms of expression of journalism.

Events and news situation, on the other hand, are concepts that may be identified with or distinguished from one another under specific circumstances. An event corresponds to the "what happened?" of the journalistic account. But it is easy to perceive the many occasions when our reports deal with a "complex" news situation (proceedings, meetings, production sessions, wars, events, natural catastrophes, etc.) composed of several events or topics of news interest which may also be handled separately or in several journalistic ways at the same time. This is what we usually call a /news situation/.

As for /news sources/, these have been defined as those institutions, agencies, places, etc. that habitually and unexpectedly produce or concentrate data of general interest which the journalist makes use of to do his job: news items, investigations, reports, news articles, articles, etc.

What Do We Write About?

The event or news situation is related to the question: "What do we write about?" And this in turn with the process of acquiring or selecting a /topic/ to work on.

It is in principle worth remembering that it must be considered a prerequisite for this topic to be of general interest expressed in terms of the so-called /values/ of a news item which are discussed in every classical textbook on journalism: proximity, consistency, prominence, human interest and originality. We must, however, be careful with the meaning we assign these points of interest since the /educational/ role of the press exerts a strong and systematic influence on the appearance of new "values" which are being revealed among the masses as a reflection of all the structural changes we have had and the political-ideological effort through leadership and orientation procedures. This process of "reeducation" is of particular importance in the course of the transition from capitalism to communism.

In analyzing about what to write, it is important and necessary to continue to go deeper into our study of Lenin and other sources that will orient us with regard to this.

The supreme leader of the October Revolution insisted that the press must educate people through living and specific examples taken from all walks of life, paying "more attention to how the worker and farmer masses actually build a new life in their daily efforts. /Check/ more on the extent to which this new life is communist in nature."²

Various works of Lenin emphasize these criteria: Especially worth recommending is the study of the main theses he expounded in his articles, "The Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government," "On the Nature of Our Newspapers," "Dissertation on the Propaganda of Production," "The Work of the People's Commissar of

Public Education," "A Letter to N. Osinski" and "A Letter to the Editorial Staff of the Newspaper."

"Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn" [Economic Life], "The Significance of Militant Materialism" and others. Lenin assigned the press an important role in the organization of competition, two of the principles of which, he maintained, are publicization of the country's economic development and comparison of the results achieved by the socialist movement in all the communes of the nation. For his part, he directed that economic problems be submitted to the judgment of the masses and that the reasons for administrative successes and methods be analyzed, on the other hand, sending communes that persisted in preserving the traditions of capitalism to the "blackboard."³

Nor did other topics escape Lenin: exemplary care and honesty in the manufacture and distribution of products, the exemplary cleanliness of a worker household or populous section of town, the operation of public dining halls, the publication of scientific and technical advances, etc. "All this has to be," he warned, "10 times what it is now, an object of attention and concern for the press as it is for /every/ worker and farmer organization."⁴

These principles of the Leninist conception of the press were ratified in our First Party Congress resolution on the mass communications media in which their role in the appropriate popularization of the party and socialist state's directives, the achievement of the revolution and the new life manifest in villages, municipalities and provinces is also emphasized. Along with this, "the importance of publicizing our true history because of its effect on the patriotic education of the masses" is noted "as is that of international reporting with a topical and class-conscious policy, granting priority to information on life in the socialist countries, the class struggles of the worker movement in the capitalist countries, the struggles of the national liberation movement and of those peoples that are combatting the meddling in their affairs, aggression or intervention of imperialism and in particular the revolutionary process in Latin America and throughout the entire underdeveloped world."⁵

To systematically orient ourselves as to about what topic and with what objectives in mind to write, we think that one method is to base ourselves on these general principles and also to make use of the following documents, among others, as points of constant reference and as tools in our work:

The Programmatic Platform and other accords and resolutions of the First and Second Party Congresses.

The Five-Year Economic Plan.

The priority objectives and tasks of the party and the province.

The operational plans of the sectors, agencies and organizations with which we directly work, first of all, and others that will permit us to more and more familiarize ourselves with public life and foresee tendencies and events.

The editorial line and/or topical plan of our newspaper.

Our operational plan and our team's plan.

The "passive" information our sources present us with.

The information the daily press provides us with.

Simple examination of any of these materials would suffice to bring out a motivation and a topic, also suggesting the data to be procured for our investigation, report or lead article, etc. A thorough study of them should give us the answer to the question as to what has to be written, what has to be read and what ends we ought to set ourselves.

In our opinion, most of the basic information the newspaperman requires to guarantee the quality of his work can normally be obtained through these channels we have noted and which are fully accessible to him and, furthermore, it is published in various volumes, is on sale in bookshops or is available through the normal orientation channels of our newspapers.

Is the newspaperman an expert on the documents that reveal the short and long-term plans of the sector he deals with as well as on the party's policy with respect to them? Is he an expert on the daily press and the magazines? Does he get literature relating to his specific field of work?

Has he, like the chief of his team or the director, mastered his newspaper's editorial policy and plan of operations? The newspaperman must be a thorough investigator and a connoisseur of life, people, tendencies, history, the current situation and the future. Unless he meets these conditions, he cannot be described as a true "chronicler of his time," as Alejo Carpentier put it.

On the other hand, in any of the topical fields the newspaperman moves in he daily encounters different situations: developments, events, meetings, prominent personalities, etc. In such situations topic, situation, fact and news source tend to be confused with one another. At a meeting held to check on the progress being made in industrial sector tasks and chaired by a revolutionary leader, for example, the main /topic/ may be the development of plans for this sector in connection with economic activity, the /situation/ is given through the meeting itself with all its interesting aspects (resolutions, speeches, orientations, results, the chairmanship, etc.), one of which, isolated, could be separately reported in independent articles. As for the /source/ or /sources/, they would be the agencies and persons who provide the information which we would publish.

It usually happens, however, that the meeting itself or its chairmen become the event, that we let ourselves forget to mention what took place in the industry and what resolutions were adopted and the reasons therefor, that, since at the newspaper "they asked us [to stick to] 40 lines," we feel that it is impossible to thoroughly explain certain problems that have been raised without resorting to other editions and other forms of expression, etc., etc. And it is appropriate to note that on occasion this way of looking at things may be fully justified, but in most cases it can be maintained that under the heading of this consideration we miss the heart of the problem and easily fall prey to superficiality.

No doubt of most importance in all this is not the ability to establish this conceptual differentiation, or even to agree or disagree with the concepts that are applied.

That is totally secondary. What is fundamental is to not get lost under given circumstances, but to go straight for what is truly significant, demonstrating the reasons behind it and the possible consequences without neglecting our disseminating and organizing function which always demands a thorough explanation of the events and their nature.

It is also obvious that circumstances of space and time do not always permit us to tackle the problem /earnestly/ with anything more than a "short note," but this is not the last resort nor, far from it, is it the basis for letting us feel totally satisfied in the face of a situation that will still go on generating "topics"....

As can be appreciated, responding to this is not only a problem of productivity, but also of thoroughness. In a word: of /quality/.

The News Sources

The process of acquiring or selecting a topic should lead us to familiarizing ourselves with it to a certain extent, to formulating /questions/ about it and to determining the chief /sources/ to consult to obtain the information necessary for composing our future material. The sources are as varied as life itself.

According to their nature, they are referred to as "official" or "unofficial," although an intent to conceal the real sources on occasion lies hidden behind this latter term. Geographical criteria are also employed when we speak of "local," "regional," etc. sources, or topical when historical, economic, social, sport, etc. sources are referred to.

In our judgment, the functional classification of sources into /active/ or /primary/, those that contribute the principal data for the report, and /passive/ or /subsidiary/, those that contribute complementary data, is of special interest.

Among the primary sources, however, we have to distinguish from the others those that are of an /institutional/ nature, like a source whose important job, among others, is to contribute reports generally prepared for the newspapers. These are the cable news agencies, press and publication bureaus and sections. Newspapers themselves, news bulletins and reviews in essence become sources of this type when they are used by foreign correspondents or special correspondents who cover given areas and use these media as their primary sources of information. It is enough to take a brief look at the international page of any daily to realize how useful these sources are.

The other class of active sources that are of most interest to us is that of the so-called live sources. Characteristic of these is the fact that their data is always obtained through contact with people, although most of the time they

speak to us on behalf of specific state institutions — political, social, etc. — with offices at given locations to which the newspaperman habitually goes to look for "news." Within these so-called live sources, we should, nevertheless, consider the difference in circumstances that arises when we resort to them effectually and create news or foresee the exact moment when the situation would have to arise as opposed to when the event occurs accidentally, at any time and in a context that is least expected.

The need for good professional control over these "live" sources forces the newspaperman to follow a systematic regime of study, in-depth comprehension and attention to or cultivation of them. Familiarity with the field of endeavor in question, persistence, earnestness and proper work methods, the ability to relate to others and mastery of the psychology of human groups and of man in particular are, in our opinion, the newspaperman's trump cards in carrying out even the most difficult of assignments.

In connection with this, we feel it is important to quote the words of a member of the Politburo of our party's Central Committee, Comrade Armando Hart Dávalos:

"Today, as always, initiative is required of the newspaperman. A fundamental duty of any newspaperman requires him to look for news, regardless of any obstacles he may encounter in doing so. And if doors are closed to him, he must open them, even though doing so may demand skill and audacity. But in our case it is not a question of engaging in an irreconcilable conflict between the news sources and the newspaperman. The news sources are today in the hands of the revolutionary government. And if we start with the premise that the newspaperman is an ideological worker and that he is subject to the discipline of a revolutionary newspaper, there will be no reason to restrict his obligation to get at the news.

"There will be no full-fledged journalism unless we, as a matter of principle and daily practice, support the newspaperman's obligation to look for news. It is important for both newspapermen and those in responsible positions at the news sources to realize this." (...)

"Most serious is a situation in which the restrictions that may exist which prevent the newspaperman from having access to news tend to create an attitude of superficiality and accommodation among press employees. When there is neither a report, analysis of same nor access to news or a clarification of the situation, it must not have happened or does not have to happen and, consequently, it is not necessary to go out and get it. Self-limited in his functions, the newspaperman infringes on the editorship of the newspaper and on the party leadership itself in the exercise of its informational and orientational function."⁶

In addition to the information obtained from primary or active sources, our struggle for obtaining complete information more and more requires the newspaperman to properly consult /"documentary"/ or /"passive"/ sources. Much has been written about the need for modern journalism to /document/ the news.

In connection with this, serving as first-hand resources in addition to the newspaperman's experience and mastery of the topic are centers of documentation, archives, libraries, (newspaper) morgues and other sources from which we can quickly and efficiently obtain this indispensable complement to our reports.

With regard to this, not only do we consider it to be tremendously useful for the newspaper to grant priority to the creation of these sources among its own resources, but we very strongly recommend in addition to this that every newspaperman organize his own by means of a "card file" which he might perhaps start in the following way:

1. Enter the names, positions and telephone numbers of the chief individuals and "contacts" at his news sources.
2. Enter the functional, horizontal and vertical organization of the sources he deals with, devoting special attention to those that are most closely associated with journalistic activities.
3. Acquire all possible documents or at least check out those that contain annual, semi-annual or monthly, etc. reports and work plans as well as other materials the study and systematic consultation of which permit us to familiarize ourselves with the problems, tasks and chief plans of the area we are dealing with.
4. Enter, acquire and read specialized or historical literary works or those that deal with any point of interest relating to our topical field.
5. /Study/ everything the national, provincial or local, specialized, etc. press has to say about our field of activity, entering in our card file articles and other publications of documentary value that may come to our aid on any given occasion.
6. Enter in our card file everything directly or indirectly referring to our field that appears in general papers of the party and the state.

Of course, this cannot be accomplished in a day or in a week either, rather through a systematic effort which, once begun, never ends, even if we should change sources, in which case what we have accumulated and /learned/ will not have been wasted. Quite the contrary, it will demonstrate that we did not go to the trouble in vain. And the newspaperman must never spend time on a news source in vain.

News Item

Practically all textbooks on journalism, in which its fundamentals, values, style and excellence of composition fill entire chapters, deal with the news item, the last point in our essay. For this, we refer the reader to the obligatory consultation of the work of our constant teacher. Jose A. Benitez.

Basing ourselves on his work, in the first place, with regard to editorial form, we underline the importance of paying conscious attention to the degree of

"complexity" of the material we are working with and to the chief functions of each of the two parts of the narrative which a news item is composed of: "the lead or introduction" and "the body." In the first, the most important fact or facts are summarized or an interesting element is offered to attract the reader's attention; in the second, the fact or each of the facts noted in the introductory summary is expanded or explained in detail.

We have personally asked many journalists what methods are employed to produce the celebrated "inverted pyramid" and their replies are always the same: "I assess all the data and give the item a heading on the basis of what I believe to be of most importance. The rest of it... is worked out in terms of the method I have recommended...." And frequently — we add — the method lets many interesting and important elements get lost in various parts of the report, elements which should occupy a prominent position in the heading and then lead us to a longer explanation or detailed examination in the body of the narrative.

We should, nevertheless, point out that daily perusal of our press indicates to us that we not infrequently resort to the "mixed" method of narration and likewise that the "chronological" narrative also appears with some repetition in certain situations. We do not believe that it is a mistake for it to appear this way. When we sit down to write something up, the most important thing to think about is not what the narrative type we have to use is called. We are only concerned with the fact that these methods are unconsciously imposed on us in certain "typical" situations: events, parades, etc., and that in obedience to this fact we may not do (believing that we are so doing) what is indicated to us by the need for quality.

It is appropriate to add that in complex situations the newspaperman can use different /news item forms/. This is important for him to take note of.

Many of the resolutions adopted at a meeting or the speeches delivered at it, for example, are in themselves alone deserving of a detailed and documented report in which the act is commented on at length in terms of its participants, importance, the reasons for it and the consequences, the circumstances, etc. The fact that we consider ourselves to be obliged at a given time to come up with an overall, general report of any event does not in any way prevent us from offering the news item in the next issue. Quite the contrary, not to do so would mean losing an important part of our material.

Referring to everything we have said up to now, in conclusion we underline the close interrelationship that exists among the concepts analyzed here: the journalistic or news situation, the news source and the news item, which is also manifested in the three basic activities of the editor-reporter: acquiring, compiling and summarizing data and writing it up.

While studying them separately has enabled us to delve into a knowledge of each of these phases, to reveal some of the ways in which they are conducted and make specific methodological recommendations, we have to achieve their harmonious integration through the intense process that the daily activities of a newspaperman of necessity involve. Like life itself, this process essentially never ends; rather every event, like every news item, constitutes a new point of

departure in our mission of reflecting as extensively as possible the field of endeavor we have been entrusted with.

"The more reports the newspaper has access to, the more opportunities its editors have to better evaluate the situation and reach conclusions when preparing to publish an issue. But if the editors of the newspaper do not receive reports, commentaries of them, etc., there is no 'raw material' with which to put out a good newspaper. We must bear in mind that a newspaper's 'raw material' is news. And it is a question of guaranteeing the arrival of this 'raw material' and in sufficient quantity to be able to have a selection that will facilitate the quality of the output."⁷

This is the important task of the editor-reporter, the journalist!

FOOTNOTES

1. Johnson, S. and J. Harris. "The Professional Reporter," Mexico, Ediciones F. Trillas, 1966, p 84.
2. Lenin, V.I. "On the Nature of Our Newspapers," in "Lenin on the Press," Moscow, Ediciones Progreso, p 272.
3. Lenin, V.I. "The Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government," op. cit., p 268.
4. Lenin, V.I. "A Great Initiative," op. cit., p 283.
5. PCC [Cuban Communist Party]. "First Party Congress Resolution on the Mass Communications Media," in the review THE ACTIVE COMMUNIST, Havana, Ediciones PCC, March 1976, p 76.
6. Hart, D.A. "Concluding Speech of the Third UPEC [Union of Cuban Journalists] Congress," in "For Active and Creative Journalism," Havana, Ediciones UPEC, 1974, pp 83-84.
7. Ibid., p 84.

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TRADE BETWEEN CEMA MEMBERS, LA COUNTRIES DISCUSSED

Havana ECONOMIA Y DESARROLLO in Spanish Mar-Apr 82 No 67 pp 46-63

[Article by Cuban economics degree-holder Roxana Brizuela Prado, instructor at the International Economics Research Center of Havana University's School of Economics]

[Text] The crisis in the capitalist world economy and the slight role assigned to Latin America in the capitalist international division of labor have, in recent years, brought about the advent of tendencies indicating an expansion in this continent's external economic relations with other groups of countries which are not traditional in this respect. These tendencies represent a means whereby this continent's international economic relations are intended to break off from the established systems.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is important to discuss the current problems besetting the Latin American countries' relations with the socialist nations which are members of CEMA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance].

To better understand the need for these relations, one must begin with a brief summary of the current, essentially economic conditions in the area, and the factors which prompted the original ties between the two groups of countries. In this connection, there will be evidence of Cuba's major role, in its dual capacity as a member and a Latin American country.

Other points included in the analysis will be the commercial and financial relations, and those involving scientific and technical cooperation, as well as some critical considerations and potential prospects which may appear in the context of the cooperation between the socialist countries and those of Latin America.

Performance of the Latin American Economy in Recent Years

The Latin American economy has been marked by an unstable, inadequate growth rate, with the exporting of primary products, raw materials and semi-processed goods as the leading source of foreign exchange income, as is typical of an underdeveloped area.

During the post-war period and the early 1970's, great efforts were expended to carry out programs that were aimed at achieving a greater, sustained economic growth.

Thus, there began to unfold a plan to replace imports, chiefly manufactures and consumer goods as a whole, which achieved an immediate increment of approximately 8 percent in the GDP during 1973. * Conversely, the foregoing was accompanied by an increase in the imports required to back the program, which resulted in a rise in the trade balance deficit and, particularly, in the foreign debt, affected by a tight control process established by the monopolies and the individual activity of the multinationals, which operate in the most dynamic sectors and accrue the largest profits.

Despite the fact that these factors affect the entire region alike, there are differences based on the level of industrialization and the structure of the external financial relations in each country. But, generally speaking, all the nations of the area find it impossible to insure growth in their economies, owing to the dependence on an international market with a critical situation, brought about by the application of protectionist measures on the part of the developed capitalist countries: the U.S., Japan, EEC, etc.

This directly entails a reduction in the importing capacity and ineffectiveness for any program to develop the domestic economy that is based on a change in Latin America's participation in world trade.

The desire to become merged in economic blocs in order to cope with this phenomenon has fostered an integrationist process, and the attempt to promote exports. Nevertheless, there has appeared the element which most forcefully reduces the few chances for success in each of the proposed programs: the crisis in the developed capitalist countries and the subsequent chaos transferred to the underdeveloped economies, which has caused greater distortion in the socioeconomic structures of those countries.

An example of what has been cited is the current inflation rates and the rise in prices of goods, the imbalance that has been reflected in foreign trade and, as a trend since 1978, the reduction in relations of exchange prices and the accelerated rise of the deficits in the balance of payments current accounts.

All these previous attempts have achieved an even greater internationalization of the region's economies and an increase in their vulnerability. The rise in oil prices and the constant instability of prices for essential products exported by the area have caused the curtailment of any measure aimed at solving these problems of the region.

To develop its own resources and, in particular, energy sources (which are so important, in view of the current energy crisis), the region is faced with the objective need to acquire modern technology and, in general, to invest large sums representing costs which each individual country cannot bear, and which integrationist groups can hardly assume.

Hence, the dilemma is offered of resorting to foreign credit again, which would entail an even greater increment in the debt and dependence on foreign countries, or seeking new ways and means of cooperation, through more just relationships.

* "Quarterly Economic Notes" No 1, of CEA.

The current position of the group of underdeveloped countries and, in particular, of the Latin American nations, expressed at meetings of the international agencies, and the willingness to establish trade relations and those for scientific and technical cooperation with socialist countries are a reflection not only of the critical situation of these countries, but also of the present correlation of forces in favor of socialism, which implies the possibility of establishing foreign relations different from those typified by unequal distribution and a difference in the levels of development among the capitalist countries.

As early as the 1950's, the first ties were established with the socialist camp, specifically with the USSR, stimulated by the understanding of the objective necessity for reducing Latin America's dependence on the leading markets of the capitalist countries, essentially those of the U.S., and in this way strengthening the national economies.

Upon the consolidation of the world socialist system, some long-standing endeavors have been successful, such as nationalization, and control of certain banks and natural resources, and even the victories of revolutionary movements, such as the one in Nicaragua, and the positive positions assumed by other countries in the region.

These events are added to the long series of battles waged on the continent, among which the victory of the Cuban revolution has been a catalytic factor.

At the historic moment when Latin America has begun to link itself with the socialist countries, it is finding great advantages, not only in the backing for the battle on behalf of economic autonomy, but also in the achievement of a new type of international economic relations through agreements for economic, and scientific and technical cooperation, as well as intergovernmental ones, dissociated from devices for subordination.

The motivation was also produced within the context of the socialist countries which, with the initiation of these ties, succeeded in reducing the economic isolation to which they had been exposed during the cold war, which had caused irregularity and instability in their external relations with the capitalist countries and, among the latter, with the underdeveloped countries.

Trade Relations for Scientific and Technical, and Financial Cooperation

Starting in the 1950's, some trade agreements had already been signed between socialist and underdeveloped countries. From the standpoint of the absolute volume, they were unimportant, but they represented the beginning of the bonds between the two groups of countries. Hence, these agreements established the initial contractual bases on which those relations would subsequently develop and expand.

During this period, the group of commodities and countries participating was limited and, as a rule, third parties served as intermediaries. It was during the 1970's that both the number of countries and that of the transactions expanded, also including financial relations and those involving scientific and technical cooperation.

Prompted by the problems stemming from the crisis and the obvious systematic economic growth of the socialist countries, the first negotiations were held, which afforded the opportunity to operate on a stable market, on terms different from those of the capitalist market.

The legal grounds were based on intergovernmental agreements, the fundamental aim of the CEMA countries being to support the economic independence and growth of the underdeveloped countries.

The CEMA member nations also maintain financial and trade relations, and those for cooperation with capitalist countries, something which is highly significant for the process of easing tensions. Nevertheless, the future expansion of economic relations should be directed chiefly toward the countries which maintain more forceful positions in the pursuit of their independence.

The socialist countries, most of which are combined in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, carry out the essential portion of their trade negotiations with each other, a portion representing approximately 57 percent of the total volume of their exports and imports.

This percentage dropped, starting in the period 1975-76, owing to the expansion in their relations with other countries.

The pattern of the exports to underdeveloped countries showed a relatively greater increase than did those directed toward developed countries; but this was not the case with imports, the progress of which was the opposite. Nevertheless, there is no interrelationship between this general pattern for the underdeveloped countries and that for the Latin American countries in particular.

One of the factors causing this difference is that there are included in the underdeveloped countries Iran, Egypt, India and especially Yugoslavia, with which CEMA maintains very close relations owing to their geographical locations.

During recent years, the five aforementioned countries absorbed approximately 6.35 percent of the total exports, and supplied 5.55 percent of the imports of CEMA; which represented an average of 50 percent of this area's trade with the group of underdeveloped countries.

If one excludes Cuba which, since the victory of the revolution, has accounted for a considerable portion of the exports and imports (in 1977, 79 and 75 percent, respectively), the figures for the other countries total only 21 and 25 percent during that same year.

There has not been a rapid increase in these amounts, and there has been no interrelationship between exports and imports, with a continuation of an unfavorable balance for the group of CEMA member nations.

The Latin Americans experienced gains in their trade with the socialist countries, which reached its maximum point in 1975; 40 percent of all their exports went to this area, whereas, since 1960, the average had totaled only 2 percent.

Latin America carries on its trade essentially with the U.S. In the trade with the CEMA countries, there has been a slight trend toward an increase in exports, and an opposite trend insofar as imports are concerned.

The balances attained in the trade during this period, with the exception of 1960, have always been favorable.

The underdeveloped countries, amid the crisis which limited even more the chances of supporting their industrialization process through the external sector, found it necessary to finance their purchases abroad. Moreover, the development of the trade relations with the CEMA countries has been marked by a series of difficulties. The lack of an interrelationship in the trends between exports and imports has caused failure to achieve the balance that it is proposed to attain, as stipulated in each one of the contracts and agreements which have been signed.

In 1965, the socialist countries were paying for 62 percent of their imports with what was accrued from exports; whereas, in 1978, they managed to compensate only 28 percent.

Before citing the specific commodities and the group of countries on which the essential weight of the trade relations falls, this table [Table No 4] shows us the percentage distribution of the exports and imports, depending on type of product.

The LAFTA countries account for 95 percent of Latin America's trade with CEMA countries (Cuba is excluded).

The supplies of commodities from the CEMA countries to Latin America have contributed to the development of the expanded national reproduction. Holding a major position among the exports from these countries to the Latin American market are machinery, equipment and transportation facilities (70 percent of the total volume of exports).

The USSR alone supplies to various states in the region over 100 different items for the machinery construction industry.

Exporting Country	Types of Products
USSR and Czechoslovakia	Energy equipment
USSR, Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia	Agricultural machinery
GDR, Hungary and Romania	Diesel locomotives
USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary	Mining industry equipment and machine tools
USSR and Romania	Equipment and facilities for geological drilling
Poland	Ships
Hungary	Medical equipment
USSR	Air transport facilities
Bulgaria	Equipment for the food industry

These commodities are not produced in the area, or are produced in insufficient quantities, and hence they do not compete with the native industries.

Other products exported to the region are:

Petroleum and its byproducts (in certain years, and essentially by the USSR, owing to the rise in oil prices)

Coal and coke

Cement

Sheet iron

Chemical products

Watches and other products

In general, the trade with the socialist area takes place essentially with the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania.

Predominating among the Latin American exports are products of tropical agriculture, food products and raw materials, such as meat, wool, leather, cotton, sisal, tanned leather, oil seeds, fats and fish meal; primary ores, including zinc, copper, iron ore, manganese, etc.; finished and semi-processed items, including, in recent years, footwear, ready-made clothing, wines, pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn, wool yarn, etc.

In this way, the CEMA countries, upon purchasing this entire varied supply of products, are helping to stimulate different branches of the Latin American economy.

Despite the fact that, at the present time, the trade is being carried out with 26 countries of the underdeveloped area, 88 percent of it is concentrated essentially in four countries: Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Peru.

The concentration of the trade with these countries has occurred basically because they were the first to arrive at agreements with the socialist states, and the volumes attained are due to the stipulations in the context of the agreements. The prices established are those currently in effect on the world market, and the payments are made in two fundamental ways: through compensation and in convertible currency.

The socialist countries find payment through compensation to be advantageous, but at present only 36 percent of the transactions are made with this type of payment. Payment in convertible currency has become a flow of foreign exchange to the developed capitalist countries, because it is used to pay the debts accumulated by the underdeveloped countries.

Generally speaking, the group of Latin American countries (except for Brazil and Colombia, which make a large portion of their payments through compensation) prefers to establish the contracts with payment in convertible currency; because there have been problems in liquidating the balances when they are made through compensation, wherein relations with third parties and, in the end, the use of convertible currency, have become necessary.

Moreover, suggestions have been made for association with the multilateral payments system of the International Bank of Economic Cooperation, CEMA's financial institution; but, with the exception of Cuba, no willingness to participate therein has been shown.

The contractual framework in which the trade relations between those two groups of countries originally developed has been expanding, through essentially bilateral agreements, the nature and features of which also prompted selected areas for the economic and scientific and technical cooperation.

One difficulty that has been present in this process is the fact that, in the socialist countries, these contracts can go into effect as of their signing, because their economies are scientifically planned; whereas in the underdeveloped countries, this mechanism is slow and difficult to activate.

The two elements which hamper a strong consolidation of this process are: first, the virtual absence of state control for the development of the sectors of their economies, owing to the action of the multinationals and private ownership; and, as a subjective factor, the political prejudice and underestimation of the socialist camp's potential in the scientific and technical area.

This has resulted in a situation whereby, from the time when the agreement is signed until it goes into effect, an average of about 2 years elapse, and the fulfillment thereof sometimes takes even as much as another year.

After the classification of the agreements that have been concluded, the mechanism that must guarantee and foster the fulfillment of the accords is the joint commissions. Through these commissions, in which the countries concerned participate, the exchange of information is established, this being the fundamental means for coordinating and evaluating the relations.

In addition to the fact that this expedient helps to strengthen the relations for scientific and technical cooperation, it also entails an increase in the commercial exchange over the long term.

The following joint commissions exist:

Bulgaria - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador
Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

Czechoslovakia - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru,
Ecuador, Venezuela

USSR - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador

Poland - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador

Romania - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Peru

Hungary - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Guyana, Mexico, Peru

One problem that has cropped up in the joint commissions insofar as the Latin American countries are concerned is that the participants do not have the authority to respond to commitments on behalf of the governments that they represent.

As for the cooperation between socialist and underdeveloped countries, it would be feasible to try to use the method of multilaterality; because on occasion, in a

project of a complete type, there are specialties involved in which another country that is not a party to the agreement has more experience, and hence more efficiency.

A factor which has curbed the progress of the cooperative relations is the sudden changes in the policy of certain countries, which has brought about changes in the priorities that had established a certain investment project or program aimed at one sector of the economy in particular.

There have been other problems associated with the dispersion of the territory in which the equipment has been located, insufficient infrastructure, lack of experience in its use and limits on the financial resources.

Based on the results accrued and the socialist international division of labor, there has been a certain amount of specialization, according to country, insofar as the cooperation in the area is concerned.

The socialist countries assume responsibility for the research and study of the project, the supply of equipment and material and the technical advice, using specialists in all phases of the investment, in addition to the training of technicians and specialists through the provision of grants.

CEMA Country	Sector in Which It Supplied the Greatest Cooperation	Latin American Country Which Received the Cooperation
USSR, Czechoslovakia	Hydro- and Thermo-Electricity	Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Peru
Poland	Coal, Metallurgy in General	Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico
Romania	Petrochemicals	Argentina
GDR, Hungary, Yugoslavia	Education	Brazil, Colombia and Peru
Hungary, Romania	Transportation	Argentina, Brazil and Peru

The development of the scientific and technical cooperation, through its action in the most important sectors of the economy, has brought about a rise in the technological level and in the productive efficiency, which has increased the possibilities for employment, a key element in the critical programs of the under-developed world. All this has afforded an expansion of the export items which, in the long run, will produce an increase in the financial resources.

The relations among CEMA member nations and Latin American countries will become consolidated as the intergovernmental agreements acquire greater stability.

The CEMA member countries have financial agencies, such as the International Bank of Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank, the essential function of which is to coordinate the financial management among the CEMA members.

Despite the lofty goals devised by the member nations, to intensify the cooperation and integration, and to achieve as a result a rise in the levels of development in countries such as Cuba and Mongolia, the latter are still experiencing

difficulties with their economies; and therefore account has had to be taken of the financing requirements of the underdeveloped regions.

During 1975, a special fund was created to support the economic and technical cooperation directed toward the underdeveloped countries, headed by the International Investment Bank.

Nevertheless, generally speaking, the loans granted by the socialist countries are for the most part of a bilateral, isolated nature.

The fact that the largest loans have been granted to countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia lead to the conclusion that there has been no process of analysis and coordination to determine a suitable selectivity, especially when the end goal is to intensify the battle for economic independence and to reduce the imperialist activity in the area. It is a noteworthy fact that, of the total loans granted to the underdeveloped countries, only 10 percent have gone to Latin America. This downgrades the nature and political significance that the granting of loans should have.

This region's requirements should be assessed, for the purpose of granting it reasonable loans and under advantageous repayment terms.

The financial relations of the socialist countries with the underdeveloped nations are dissociated from any device for subordination, and do not seek advantages, special rights, or ownership for any purpose, for the granting of loans. On the contrary, they are aimed at intensifying the development of lines of production which are essential to the country's economy, and which will also help to increase the possibilities for exporting.

Nevertheless, the interest in the use of the available loans is slight, with a utilization level of under 50 percent.

The fundamental causes are:

Large foreign debt contracted with other states and organization

Increase in the debt, basically as a result of private loans

Lack of knowledge of CEMA's potential

Little speed in the processes for executing investments when several CEMA member nations are participating

Long distances, owing to geographical location, and lack of agencies representing the socialist nations in these countries

Granting of loans by capitalist countries which, on occasion, and in order to exercise economic and political control, have more advantageous features

Absence of centralized economic plans, compounded by the governments' inability to use the available funds in the most suitable manner

As types of repayment, such as the payment of the loans through production accrued after the opening of the plants built with those loans, are coordinated and publicized, the financial relations between these countries will become strengthened.

For the expansion of the relations between the Latin American and socialist countries, the position held by Cuba since its entry into CEMA, backing the Latin American community, is important.

At the 79th meeting of the CEMA Executive Committee, held in Havana, Fidel declared: "Cuba joined CEMA in its triple capacity as a socialist country, an underdeveloped country and a country inscribed in the history of Latin America's revolutionary traditions and hopes."

This is why Cuba is the real link between the opportunities afforded by socialism and the requirements of a region which is attempting to break off from the conditions imposed on it by dependence on imperialism.

Among the international organizations, and essentially in the context of the non-aligned nations, Cuba has played a major role in dispelling the division among the underdeveloped countries regarding the socialist camp and the USSR in particular.

Owing to the stable relations that Cuba has maintained with the socialist camp for nearly 20 years, it has real opportunities for contributing to the solution of a series of problems in CEMA's relations with Latin America.

In certain areas, it also has extensive experience, such as in the training and instruction of skilled personnel on any level to operate with socialist equipment and technology. It can also meet the demand for specialists required for putting facilities into operation, and for the maintenance work during the period of development of the investment. It can help to propagandize and, in general, publicize the opportunities and gains made by science and technology under socialism. And, finally, it can participate in programs to stabilize the transportation between the two regions.

Conclusions:

1. The commercial, and scientific and technical relations between both groups of countries must be based on intergovernmental agreements leading to the stabilization of the ties between the two areas, under conditions marked by respect for sovereignty, equal rights and mutual benefits.
2. The fundamental goal of the socialist countries is to help to strengthen the state sector and the national economies, so that they may break off from international imperialist dependence and have greater opportunities in the effort to achieve stable growth, operating on markets dissociated from devices for subordination.
3. Although all these factors may bring about aid for the region's endeavors, the only possible way of eliminating the warped structures of the underdeveloped economies is radical politico-economic and social transformation.

4. The pattern of the trade between the two areas is slow and imbalanced, with the result that the socialist countries suffer deficits in the commercial negotiations with Latin America, and this constitutes a barrier to the expansion thereof.

Added to this is the area's preference for paying in convertible currency, which has caused a flow of foreign exchange to the developed capitalist countries with which the region has large debts.

5. In connection with the scientific and technical cooperation, there is a lack of information concerning the opportunities for technology and the gains of scientific research in the socialist camp, as well as an underestimation on the part of the Latin American professionals, whose training has been directed essentially along the lines of political prejudice and ideological limitations.

There are other limitations caused by the long distance between the two regions, which has brought about difficulties in transportation and in the maintenance of the equipment procured in the socialist area.

6. In addition to the subjective obstacles, there are other problems and difficulties involving fulfillment of contracts and agreements. In the socialist countries, with their scientifically planned economies, an agreement goes into effect virtually upon being signed; whereas the underdeveloped countries have a series of mechanisms for approval which interfere with the ratification thereof, and which at times even cause their cancellation.

7. When it is time to grant tariff facilities, there is discrimination against the socialist area in general.

8. Another factor conspiring against the expansion of the relations is the political fluctuations, which bring about changes in the priority of projects and programs, depending on the sector of the economy which it is desired to make predominant. This is compounded by the presence of the multinationals operating in these sectors.

9. Until the granting of loans is analyzed and is selective in nature, it will not have the political repercussions that it requires. In general, there should be greater selectivity in expanding the negotiations of all types, giving priority to those countries which assume a more forceful stance in the battle on behalf of the regions' endeavors.

10. The fundamental problem in stabilizing the relations between the CEMA member nations and the underdeveloped countries is that, in the latter, owing to the very features of the system, there are no mechanisms for planning, an element of extreme importance in the socialist system for the development of its economy and of its relations with other groups of countries.

11. Finally, we must cite as the most important element in the relations between these two groups of countries the contribution made by these relations to the process of easing tensions, which is so greatly threatened at the present time.

Table No 1

Socialist Countries: FOB Exports and CIF Imports
(in millions of dollars, according to main areas of destination)

Total and Percentage Distribution

	Exports						
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1976	1977	1978
Exports	13,187	19,939	30,895	73,730	84,743	97,650	107,839
CEMA Socialist Countries	61.1	62.4	59.4	55.6	54.8	57.3	57.6
Developed Capitalist Countries	19.8	20.3	21.9	25.6	26.9	25.2	24.5
Underdeveloped Countries	8.6	13.4	15.4	16.4	16.8	17.5	17.9
Cuba	0.7	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.7	-
Other LA	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	-
Total LA	1.8	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.4	-
Imports							
Total Imports	13,390	19,652	20,176	85,632	91,801	99,633	122,148
CEMA Socialist Countries	58.8	62.3	61.10	49.5	49.9	54.7	55.9
Developed Capitalist Countries	21.5	22.3	25.8	35.7	36.0	32.3	31.5
Underdeveloped Countries	9.5	10.4	11.6	13.3	12.8	13.0	12.6
Cuba	0.9	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.6	3.0	-
Other LA	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.8	1.9	1.6	-
Total LA	2.1	3.9	3.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	-

Sources: UNCTAD, Statistical Information
ECLA, 24 May 1980

Table No 2

Relative Share of Latin America's Exports and Imports With Selected Regions
(total value in millions of dollars)

Year	Exports	Relative Share				
		Amount	U.S.	EEC	Japan	CEMA Countries
1960	8,499	40.1	17.8	2.3	1.7	
1965	11,263	33.4	19.7	3.8	2.7	
1970	15,253	32.1	21.3	5.3	2.1	
1975	36,300	30.1	20.2	4.2	4.0	
1976	41,556	30.6	21.2	4.3	3.6	
1977	49,174	31.0	21.5	4.2	3.6	
1978	52,566	33.2	22.2	4.4	3.4	
Imports						
1960	8,107	43.3	19.4	2.7	1.9	
1965	9,605	40.8	17.4	4.1	1.3	
1970	15,031	39.3	18.4	5.6	1.0	
1975	45,010	35.1	21.8	7.9	1.0	
1976	47,621	33.9	19.4	7.4	1.1	
1977	51,256	31.9	19.5	8.4	1.1	
1978	57,361	33.7	21.0	10.0	0.9	

Source: Direction of Trade, IMF Publication, excludes Cuba

Table No 3

Balance of Latin America's Trade With the CEMA Countries
(value in millions of dollars)

Year	Imports	Exports	Balance	Total
1960	157	144	13	301
1965	126	303	177	429
1970	145	317	172	462
1975	459	1,465	1,006	1,924
1976	507	1,502	995	2,009
1977	540	1,748	1,208	2,288
1978	532	1,772	1,240	2,304

Source: Direction of Trade, IMF

Table No 4

LAFTA Exports and Imports With Socialist Countries

	Exports		Imports	
	1970	1976	1970	1976
Total value (millions of \$)	290	1,523	150	640
Percentage Distrib. (%)				
Foods	61.7	79.2	10	2.7
Agricultural raw materials	25.5	3.6	1.3	0.6
Metals	72.2	9.5	15.3	3.9
Fuels	-	0.9	2.7	31.3
Manufactures	6.2	6.8	69.3	59.8

Source: UNCTAD, Handbook of International Trade and Development, Statistics, 1979

Table No 5

Exports and Imports (to, from) Socialist Countries, Percentage Distribution

Year		Exports		Total
		Brazil	Argentina	
1960	Brazil	49.7	Argentina	41.5 91.2
1970	Brazil	38.6	Argentina	23.2
	Colombia	10.6	Peru	10.3 88.7
1975-77	Brazil	50	The other three	40 90
1978	Brazil	41	The other three	49 90
Imports				
1960	Brazil	51	(other three countries)	33 84
1970	Brazil	46	" " "	26 72
1975	Brazil	49	Argentina	22 71
1977	Brazil	51	(other three countries)	32 83
1978	Brazil	45	" " "	24 69

Source: Based on the tables of FOB exports and CIF imports of all the Latin American countries to or from the socialist countries. Direction of Trade, IMF, Annual, 1971-78.

2909
CSO: 3248/77

MARXIST-LENINIST TRAINING FOR MILITARY DESCRIBED

Officers

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 34, 26 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] The following is the Marxist-Leninist training program for officers for the first session of the 1982-1983 instruction year (Communist, Workers International and National Liberation Movements (1760-1939)

No	Subject	Hours
1.	International workers movement in the period of premonopolistic capitalism	4
2.	International workers movement in the period of transition from capitalism to imperialism	4
	Seminar on subjects 1 and 2	4
3.	The international workers movement in the years of the reassertion of imperialism	4
4.	Main problems in the national liberation movement in the years of the reassertion of imperialism	4
	Seminar on subjects 3 and 4	4
	Preparation for the examination	
	Examination	4
	Reserve	8
<hr/>	Total	<hr/> 40

Warrant Officers

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 34, 26 Aug 82 p 67

[Text] The following is the Marxist-Leninist training program for warrant officers for the first session of the 1982-1983 instruction year (Foundations of Political Knowledge)

No	Subject	Hours
1.	Theoretical foundations of communism. The subject, forms of existence and universal interlinking of phenomena	4
2.	Awareness, a property of highly organized matter. Materialism and idealism, two philosophical lines	4
	Seminar on subjects 1 and 2	4
3.	The materialist interpretation of history. The socioeconomic structure	4
4.	Classes and the class struggle. Nations and national relations. Historic need and the freedom of man	4
	Seminar on subjects 3 and 4	4
	Preparation for the examination	4
	Examination	4
	Reserve	8
	<hr/> Total	<hr/> 40

5157

Sergeants, Soldiers and Sailors

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 35, 2 Sep 82 p 2

[Text] Program of Political Training
 Sergeants, Soldiers and Sailors
 1982-83 School Year
 First Term (60 Hours)

<u>No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1.	Tasks of the sergeants, soldiers and sailors in the 1982-83 school year.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
2.	The revolutionary triumph and the construction of socialism in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
3.	Socialist property. Revolutionary transformation of property in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
4.	Socialist industrialization in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
5.	Socialist transformation of the agriculture-livestock sector in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
6.	Attainments in the sugar sector during the Revolution.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
7.	Attainments of the Cuban Revolution in education.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
	Reserve.	12
	Preparation for the test.	2
	Test.	4
	Total	60

Command Sergeants--Version 1

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 35, 2 Sep 82 p 67

[Text] Program of Political Training
 Command Sergeants
 1982-83 School Year
 First Term (60 Hours)

<u>No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1.	Tasks of the sergeants, soldiers and sailors in the 1982-83 school year.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
2.	The revolutionary triumph and the construction of socialism in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
3.	Socialist property. Revolutionary transformation of property in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
4.	Socialist industrialization in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
5.	Socialist transformation of the agriculture-livestock sector in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
6.	Principles of military education.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
7.	Methods of military education.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
	Reserve	12
	Preparation for the test.	2
	Test.	4
	Total	60

Command Sergeants--Version 2

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 36, 9 Sep 82 p 2

[Text] Program of Political Training for Command Sergeants
1982-83 School Year
First Term (80 Hours)

<u>No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1.	Tasks of the sergeants, soldiers and sailors in the 1982-83 school year.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
2.	The revolutionary triumph and the construction of socialism in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	6
3.	Socialist property. Revolutionary transformation of property in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	6
4.	Socialist industrialization in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
5.	Socialist transformation of the agriculture-livestock sector in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
6.	Principles of military education.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
7.	Methods of military education.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
	Reserve.	24
	Preparation for the test.	6
	Test.	4
	Total	80

Sergeants, Soldiers

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 36, 9 Sep 82 p 67

[Text] Program of Political Training for Sergeants and Soldiers
1982-83 School Year
First Term (80 Hours)

<u>No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1.	Tasks of the sergeants, soldiers and sailors in the 1982-83 school year.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
2.	The revolutionary triumph and the construction of socialism in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	6
3.	Socialist property. Revolutionary transformation of property in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	6
4.	Socialist industrialization in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
5.	Socialist transformation of the agriculture-livestock sector in Cuba.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
6.	Attainments in the sugar sector during the Revolution.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
7.	Attainments of the Cuban Revolution in education.	2
	Preparation and holding of the debate.	4
	Reserve.	24
	Preparation for the test.	6
	Test.	<u>4</u>
	Total	80

8414

CSO: 3248/4, 3010/2338

DUTIES OF OFFICERS IN MOBILIZING TROOPS DISCUSSED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 30 Sep 82 No 39 pp 30-33

[Article by Mario Rodriguez: "The Activities of the Commander"]

[Text] Being an officer means, above all, the ability to command one's personnel and mobilize them towards the performance of the most complex missions, to analyze the combat situation in depth, to foresee how events will develop in any situation, to make the appropriate decision as quickly as possible, to demonstrate constant resourcefulness and to be willing to perform any mission no matter how difficult it might be.

To this end it is indispensable, of course, to have a thorough knowledge of the principles and methods that govern political and military education, the foundations of military pedagogy and psychology and to utilize them appropriately every day. Studying the psychology of a group of subordinates is a complex task for the commander and his substitute for political work, and on its successful completion depend a secure authority over personnel, the strength of education's influence and the morale of the small unit.

In order to perform the missions involved in leadership, education and training, a commander must have a thorough knowledge not only of the personal psychology of each combatant but also the psychology of the group (morale, views, interests and relationships in the group).

"The development of the individual," Marx and Engels wrote, "is conditioned by the development of the rest of the individuals with whom the former comes into direct or indirect contact."

Military service is a group activity. When they join the service, youths are placed in small units in which they immediately are assigned to one or another position or to fulfill certain duties. They are given a whole series of missions whose performance demands close-knit cooperation, in other words teamwork, characterized by a high degree of precision.

Even though the combatants possess distinct individual traits, their joining together to perform certain missions prompts a whole series of psychological phenomena, such as the emotional climate prevailing

in the small unit, general interests, personal feelings, traditions, customs, likes, dislikes, authority, etc.

As a result of the direct contact among the combatants, mutual influences develop in the small unit. Thus, reciprocal demands, emulation and the exchange of experiences, information, opinions and states of mind emerge within the group.

Hence, so-called "psychological contagion" is at work in the small unit. Each combatant tries to assert his individuality and to occupy a particular authorized position in the life of the group (leadership); the attitudes of one's comrades and one's own attitudes are assessed; relations are established with the commanders, etc.

In general, the group exercises a mobilizing influence on the individual and boosts his potential. Even the simplest contact during work, as Karl Marx underscored, "motivates emulation and a special revival of vital energy...which boosts the productivity of some individuals."

A commander must realize that the psychological climate in his small unit and its morale exercise a decisive influence on the effectiveness of overall activities, on the level of teamwork and discipline, on work and on the personality of each combatant.

A good psychological climate in a small unit gives rise to security, positive personal relationships, mutual respect, comradeship and friendship, which are indispensable conditions for teamwork in action among combatants.

In contrast, constant friction and conflicts, unhealthy opinions, poor morale, psychological incompatibility, etc sharply lower performance and the educational potential of any group.

The creation of groups that possess a high level of combat readiness, discipline, skills, teamwork, etc is a major mission in a commander's educational and organizational work.

Particular Features of a Military Group

A group is generally thought to mean a relatively small number of individuals who have a specific task to perform in a given field and who function like a relatively compact whole.

Our socialist society is characterized by various groups in a range of fields: labor, politicosocial, military, educational, sports, etc.

Hence, a group is merely a special collection of individuals that possesses the following distinctive features:

1. Organized command and leadership bodies, without which the group could not exist.

"We could not imagine a group as just a collection of individuals," A.C. Makarenko emphasizes. "A group is a living social body, precisely because it has its own organs, its full powers, its responsibilities, relationships among its sections, mutual dependence. If none of this existed, then the group would not exist; it would merely be a crowd."

2. The social importance of the goal of its activities, which lends teamwork and guidance to its members

3. Continuity and relative stability

4. A given level of teamwork and discipline.

Thus, a group, as a superior way of uniting individuals, is characterized by organization, teamwork, the social importance of the goal of its activities, relative stability and continuity in its operations.

In a manner of speaking, each group is an element or fraction of our socialist society. Yet each of them performs a specific and useful social mission and possesses a specific organizational structure and a given kind of mutual relationship among its members.

Primary groups are ones in which contacts are much closer and more stable. In the Armed Forces, squads, crews, platoons, companies (batteries) and their equivalents are primary groups.

A military group has a whole series of particular features. The main one is that it is called upon to defend the socialist homeland.

A military group's high level of readiness to successfully engage in combat is an eloquent indicator of its maturity and level of development.

A military group differs from a labor or sports group in that its tools are combat equipment and weaponry, which demand teamwork and thorough mastery and discipline. Moreover, all of the activities that such a group performs (combat and political training, active duty, etc) are strictly regulated.

"Military organization," M.B. Frunze points out, "is a specific organization that demands of its members a special precision, accuracy, promptness, firmness and rapidity in the execution of all orders."

All military activities and all relationships within the military are organized in accordance with military regulations and the instructions and orders of commanders. The hierarchy of a military group is based on the principle of a single command and iron discipline.

"Under no circumstances," stated Generalissimo Maximo Gomez, "can any subordinate disobey the orders of a superior, regardless of how unfair

they might seem to him, although subsequently by citing further reasons in a spirit of respect and discipline, availingshimself of all the rights that our republic's laws grant him, he can submit his complaints to whomever he wishes." Further on he pointed out the following with regard to rank:

"A person in charge must be very careful not to commit any act of weakness that might diminish the amount of power with which he has been entrusted. Nor must he take arbitrary actions. Ultimately, however, in certain circumstances, such as, for example, the war in Cuba today, an arbitrary commander is preferable to a weak commander or one who lacks character. The problems that could arise from the former's actions would be personal; at most they would harm his person. But the upheavals that would ensue from the latter's actions would always be disastrous because they would affect the entire fabric of society."

Through effective leadership of the group and through the interaction of various character traits that are being constantly highlighted, each combatant grows spiritually stronger, matures intellectually and, in short, acquires the qualities that he does not yet possess.

This is possible because most of the members of a military group are youths who are in the midst of developing their personalities and grasping the guidelines and motivations that ought to govern their conduct. In a word, they are at the stage of incorporating fully into society.

Organization, firmness and teamwork are inherent to a military group. These traits reflect the political and moral unity and the discipline that it must possess, and they are the groundwork for the relations and daily contacts among combatants.

These traits are based on the high-level moral, combat and psychological qualities of the personnel, on personal convictions and viewpoints, on mutual aid and support and on the performance of both individual and group missions.

A group's organization, teamwork and firmness help to forge a high level of readiness and ability to successfully perform both peacetime and wartime missions. These characteristics are especially evident under difficult conditions when the situation changes constantly (maneuvers, marches, combat fire) as well as in tackling group and inter-group issues.

A group's performance depends on the teamwork of all its personnel. Thus, each small unit must be a united, cohesive and precision group and possess a strong combative spirit, professional skills, good leadership, and unity of opinion, feelings and will among all members.

The words of 1st Lt Manuel Oquendo, the commander of a small motorized infantry unit of the Central Army, come to mind. At the conclusion of a combat fire maneuver in which his small unit was involved, he made the following very illustrative remarks to us:

"In the maneuver that we have just concluded we once again confirmed that in overcoming the difficulties that might arise during the course of combat there is nothing like a spirit of teamwork and a permanent desire for success."

The group is a condition and a means for the development of an individual's personality.

"Only in a group," Marx and Engels underscored, "can an individual obtain the means that will make possible his multifaceted development, and therefore only in a group is personal freedom possible."

These ideas of Marxism's founders are very apropos when applied to a military group because it is precisely in such a group that personalities are developed and an active stand vis-a-vis life and military activity forged.

Bourgeois psychologists and educators resort to every available expedient in a bid to show that a group is radically at odds with the interests of the individual because, they claim, its *raison d'être* is precisely to crush and subordinate the individual.

According to this reactionary view, the only way to strengthen the individual is to reject the group and, therefore, to downplay the principles of collectivism.

Some bourgeois psychologists even emphasize that the negative influences of collectivism predominate over the positive influences that stem from military activities.

What these "mercenaries of science" overlook or endeavor to overlook in their eagerness to justify the bourgeois lifestyle with their inconsistent theories is that a group is marked by a complex system of dependencies in which each individual tries to reconcile his personal inclinations with the overall goals and missions.

But there is something else. The group is in no way above the individual. On the contrary, it is composed of individuals whose interactions help to create a "group spirit" and a "group psychology" through their own particular traits.

When he joins his small unit, a combatant feels the influence of his comrades' ideas and wills, but he in turn influences them too. As a result a special sort of contact develops that cannot be simply reduced to the mechanical sum of the actions of all the isolated individuals.

The military group unquestionably influences the motivations and all the activities of the combatant. In the group a soldier has a better chance to manifest his will, discipline and firmness in achieving the goals of military service than if he were to act as an individual.

Of great importance in this regard is not only the group's and the commander's monitoring of the activities of each soldier but also the prevailing spirit in the small unit and the atmosphere of comradeship that rallies them all to perform their assigned mission.

Success in troop training and education shows up, of course, in specific results, especially the organization and development of socialist emulation.

In this regard, Directive No 1 of the FAR minister concerning political and party work during the 1981-1985 period states:

"To continue enhancing the application of socialist emulation in the FAR by imbuing organizational activities with a profound political and ideological content so that they are a greater motivation for combatants."

"To tighten demands in evaluating performance, to disseminate experiences more widely and to boost incentives for outstanding personnel and vanguards; to give primary consideration to the commanders, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, privates and seamen who are directly involved in combat and political training."

The group exercises a multifaceted influence on the personality of the combatant. A commander's organization and direction of his small unit is an important educational tool for influencing individuals.

A strong, friendly group that is organized as well as possible and that offers magnificent living and rest and relaxation conditions is decisively conducive to the development of a harmonious and well-balanced personality.

Education should at all times be directed towards the creation of stable, strong and influential groups.

In order for a group to discharge its educational functions, all educational processes must be properly organized, group members must feel truly dependent on it and must devote themselves entirely to and watch out for the group's interests.

At the same time, the commander regulates the educational influence that the party and UJC [Union of Young Communists] organizations exert on his group. In addition, comradeship, constructive example in each activity and in one's own conduct, the authority of commanders and the interdependence and responsibility that the members of the small unit demonstrate are essential educational influences on a combatant's personality.

The development of a combatant's personality within the small unit, a personality characterized by a high level of communist awareness and the resulting moral and combative virtues, is closely tied to the influence of material and spiritual factors and to the application of an entire system of organizational measures to promote social and military instruction.

Such organizational measures include general missions, periodic addresses to personnel, assessments of socialist emulation, joint efforts with UJC organizations, regular meetings with young officers, sergeants and warrant officers and individual work.

A group influences a combatant's personality not only by posing certain demands but also through relationships with comrades in arms.

This can be quite clearly seen during a soldier's so-called "psychological isolation" within his group. Such isolation is nothing more than a deliberate chilling of relations with a certain combatant on the part of a small circle or the group in general.

In examining the issue of a commander's use of the group's influence on an individual, we must keep in mind all of the combatant's attitudes towards his military service.

In utilizing the influence of the group on an individual's personality, a commander must not lose sight of the need to make timely and proper use of individual attention and bear in mind the various facets of a soldier's attitude, both in his present surroundings and in light of the social conditions that have been the setting for his life and activities.

8743
CSO: 3248/90

PURPOSE OF CENTRAL ARMY METHODOLOGICAL MEETINGS DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 34, 26 Aug 82 pp 56-57

[Article by Lesmes La Rosa]

[Text] As is the case in other commands and units of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Central Army has been holding methodological meetings in connection with the approaching new training year.

When we attended one of these activities, we immediately saw that they represent a forge for the success of combat and political training.

The efficiency of the instruction of personnel depends basically on the prior preparation of the commanders and officers to undertake the educational work they are to do. Therefore, in the course of the meetings, they make a careful study of the tasks, plans, programs, methodological instructions and other orientation documents. This enables them to estimate the volume of the tasks and the goal of the training, and to establish the principal direction and nature of the educational work to be pursued.

We had an opportunity to attend a methodological class connected with preparations for firing practice. The mastery of the subject by the leader, the adaptation of the study areas and the use of the basic materials were truly outstanding.

The basic thing stressed was the importance to be given to this activity, since modern combat requires that the troops be able to use the full firepower and combat capacity of their weapons in any technical situation, whatever the condition of the terrain, state of the weather, time of day or night.

The practical demonstration of how the exercises in firing and grenade throwing can be carried out simultaneously was interesting. This is done by rotating personnel, effecting a substantial saving in time, resources and facilities.

During the class, Brig Gen Carlos Carballo Betancourt spoke several times. He rightly indicated that the main thing is to achieve the goals, and the basic means of doing this is for the commanders to teach, guide and prepare their subordinates for war in a conscientious and profound manner. He said that during the exercises, they should be the first to fire, and should fire well.

Singular attention was focused on the check of the soldiers the small unit commander should make before they go to the firing line. The questions posed by the combatants about the tactical-technical data and the use of the weapons in combat aroused keen interest. Each phase involved checking practical knowledge about the handling of the weapons.

The above provided confirmation of the level of efficiency and the fulfillment of the requirement which dictates that during preparation prior to carrying out individual firing exercises, the troops, consistent with the proper methodological sequence, should acquire the necessary knowledge about the material aspects of the weapons, safety measures and the rules and procedures for firing, in addition to learning the basic principles of theory.

A good part of the time in the methodological class was taken up with demonstrations of the execution of various exercises with rifles, machine guns and pistols, but not before emphasis had been placed on the responsibility borne by the commanders to be aware, before firing is undertaken, of the field conditions, the state of the installations and the existing study materials base.

Another wise aspect of the activity was the stress placed on guaranteeing political party work and the development of socialist emulation in a process as important as firing training.

If indeed it is true that this event raised the level of the methodological training of the commanders and officers of the Central Army gathered together there, in terms of the organization and execution of the most important activities having to do with firing, the noncommissioned officers and soldiers participating in the demonstrations won a definite advantage thereby, since they will shortly be studying the subject.

In brief, criteria were standardized and the forms of applying the provisions of the guiding documents were organized, with a view to improving and consolidating the methods of planning, leadership and implementation of activities having to do with firing and combat training.

A basic step was taken. Other higher steps remain which, as always, will be taken with firmness and resolution. As Maj Alfredo Hernandez Miranda quite rightly pointed out:

"We will be able to apply the knowledge and the experience we have just gained in the development of the training of the small and average units in creative fashion, in order to ensure the better training and education of our subordinates."

5157
CSO: 3010/2338

GUIDELINES ON HOW TO COVER MEETINGS NOTED

Havana UPEC in Spanish May-Jun 82 pp 23-25

[Article by Hedelberto Lopez Blanch: "Some Criteria on the Methods of Newspaper Coverage of the Congresses"]

[Text] In this article we will discuss an issue which although all newspapermen are aware of it, has not yet been formulated with the rigor and consistency required in our press. We are referring to the reporting of international and national congresses and events, whether or not they may be within the province of the publication we work for.

In analyzing the difficulties that exist in the handling of the kinds of events, the periodic nature of the proceedings and the way of approaching them, we could offer many examples.

As reminders, we might cite the Sixth Summit Conference of Nonaligned Countries, the Second Cuban Communist Party Congress, the 68th Interparliamentary Conference or the congresses of the different national labor unions, which suffered from a lack of necessary information before they began or after they were over.

Furthermore, it behooves us to speak of the great effort and the hours of care and patience our newspapermen devote to reflecting these great events in the best way possible; but have they organized a plan of operations beforehand that reflects the different stages of these activities? Have they made use of the different forms systematically or have they misused some and forgotten others?

When a congress is approaching, newspapermen basically look for information which in the majority of cases is published when the times and places (Cuba or its provinces) are announced, but such information is very sporadic. Later, the intensive phase begins, particularly during the week prior to the start of and also during the event in session and after the phase of near oblivion, that is, the impact is minuscule and the information is lost.

These considerations do not absolutely apply to all cases since we believe that events like the Sixth Summit Conference were well covered before (they did not make use of forms like commentaries, articles, summaries, etc.) and also during the conference when interviews, information, reports and news items were published, but after the close of the conference the situation changed and, despite the fact that statements and reports are given space in the international section, our newspaper, TRABAJADORES, suffers from a lack of specific articles or

commentaries that would keep alive the importance of this movement, especially when Cuba can boast of occupying the chairmanship. We do not include in this exceptional occasions like anniversaries or Politburo meetings which, because of their impact, have been emphasized in the ideological section, as well as some sporadic articles.

So far, we have in a general way noted points that affect the "follow-up" of an important event, even though it may not be one specifically within our province; and we make this reservation because the omissions that may be made by some newspaper in covering an international congress can be picked up by another daily, but, when it is a matter of something specific in the sphere of union activities, we are obliged to cover it in a reliable way because in addition to being within our province we are charged with and responsible for reporting it to the country's workers.

Preparation and Efforts Prior to the Event

This is a basic element in the improved development of our work since with the announcement of a given congress well in advance newspapers learn of preparations for it.

The newspaperman who covers a given sector is obliged to write articles that indirectly introduce the reader to those issues.

For example, we know that the Farm and Livestock Workers Union Congress will be held in July, but the newspaperman should already, in advance, be considering some issues concerning the sector in his work plans.

During this phase, the newspaper will be introducing the reader to a coming event, yet without officially announcing it, and will indeed provide the reader with facts that will familiarize him with the sector.

The most worthwhile kinds of information during this phase would be reports on the sector's production centers and articles that illustrate the achievements that have been made, for example, in the creation of the Farm and Livestock Production Cooperatives (CPA), the increase in farm production these past few years, etc.

Hence the importance of every newspaperman's drawing up monthly, annual, work plans which will permit him and the news editor to observe the kinds of information used, the topics discussed, their periodic nature and other aspects of the work.

Phase Preceding the Event

After the date for the congress has been announced, news sources obviously increase and that is the right time to begin to provide readers with more detailed information.

We must look for suitable ways of keeping from wearying people with the barrage of information, ways to guide and orient them with regard to issues they know nothing about or which have not been publicly reported very often.

Usually, during this phase the forms our press most often resorts to are news items, interviews and reports, but in the search for variety, pleasure and depth we have to indulge in other techniques like brief descriptions of outstanding workplaces and workers, historic dates, comparative tables (small ones) and commentaries and articles.

Well-written commentaries with the necessary news vigor are fundamental during this phase. Achievements, efforts and efficiencies that must be overcome (always after consulting with the sources) will introduce the reader to topics that cannot be handled in other ways.

We generally suffer from a scarcity of these materials in our press and this is basically due to a lack of familiarity with them in the sector and to the fact that newspapermen have little opportunity to use this form of reporting.

Commentaries permit us to analyze a specific or general situation throughout the country in a rapid, correct, pleasant and profound way, and that is why they should be written during this phase.

During the Congress

A congress generates countless reports that require the newspaperman to be highly capable of summarizing them, to be fast and sure in order to be able to offer a detailed resume of the proceedings.

Now the newspaperman's mind often retains ideas about different agenda items that were not discussed because there was no time for them. The newspaperman must in no way be bound by time, rather he is obligated to generate items that can be used or analyzed by the news editor's office of his newspaper.

That is, a news item on the chief points proposed during the proceedings or outstanding speeches, etc. may provide details that are not used in the news report.

We mention news items because this is a genre that has been little exploited during congresses, whereas interviews are employed to an almost abusive extent.

After the Congress

Just as certainly as we overwhelm the reader with data and reports during the congress phase, in this phase just the opposite takes place: an almost total absence of information on the results of the congress and subsequent materialization of the agreements and resolutions adopted.

We believe that the cementing of the agreements that will be implemented or not during the times allotted for them is fundamentally as noteworthy as the holding of the event.

The importance of work plans, the newspaperman's dedication and his knowledge of the sector again emerge. During this phase newspaper articles should be composed in which the carrying out of or failure to carry out agreements, the achievements and shortcomings that have taken place after the congress are analyzed.

The interview is another genre that is necessary during this period, especially with provincial leaders in the sector who will offer a general view of the work and efforts realized in their regions.

In short, we feel that knowledge of the sector, study and constant self-advancement on the part of the newspaperman, his refusal to obtain easily acquired information, seriousness and skill in presenting the different news genres, combined with the drafting of work plans, will lead to the acquisition of more fruitful results in the development of our activities.

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CSO: 3248/96

MINAZ HEAD LETTER HAILING ANAP HIGHLIGHTED

Havana ANAP in Spanish Aug 82 p 29

[Text] Because of the Sixth Peasant Congress from 15 May to 17 May 1982, comrade Diocles Torralba, member of the Central Committee of the party and minister of the sugar industry, sent a message to comrade Jose Ramirez Cruz, president of ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers]. We reprint the main paragraphs below.

We would like to inform you that there has been hard work to fulfill the commitments contracted at the base between the Ministry of the Sugar Industry and ANAP to salute the Sixth Congress.

It is necessary to point out that the sugar-cane cooperative movement was very weak in the sugar sector until 1980. Precisely during the first months of that year, a process of great transformations began with the objective of eliminating the deficiencies and weaknesses that existed until then and, in that way, advance with a strong cooperative movement among the cane peasants, making up for the backwardness that existed.

The participation of the peasants in cane production is important and, therefore, decisive in the economic development objectives of our country.

It was necessary for us to produce a substantial and profound change in our concept of attention and organization of cane peasants.

In close coordination with ANAP, we devoted ourselves to the task of drawing up the "Governing Plan" with the cane peasants.

The base organizations of the peasants, their municipal, provincial and national directorates, the enterprises, delegations and directorate of our ministry worked very closely together to write this "Governing Plan."

The basic objectives of this "Governing Plan" are to quickly organize the great majority of the cane peasants into cooperatives, achieve optimum exploitation of the land, use and exploit the available means with greater efficiency, use human resources appropriately and increase production beyond our official plans.

The results achieved until now are very obvious and encouraging. It suffices to point out only a few that have been achieved in salute to this congress.

The plan states that cane peasants will be grouped into 369 cooperatives, determined based on multiple factors such as present concentrations of peasants, existing infrastructure, possibilities of growth through exchange of areas, etc.

Of these 369 cooperatives which the cane peasants will progressively establish, 346 have already been established and we aspire, under ANAP leadership, to form the remaining 23 this year.

The cooperative movement is growing and developing rapidly since out of an existing area of 40,900 caballerias, 17,400 caballerias are grouped in cooperatives. This represents 42.5 percent of the total area with 17,800 cooperative members. Day after day, we see the cane cooperatives form and grow.

The "Governing Plan" includes having more than 27,000 caballerias--65 percent of the total area of the cane peasants--in cooperatives by 1985. Provinces like Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spiritus stand out because they have already surpassed this objective; others like Matanzas and Camaguey are approaching it.

As to use of land, we had 41 percent devoted to growing cane in 1980; this year we aspire to grow on 50.6 percent.

The objective of ANAP and the ministry is to end the 5-year period with 60 percent of the total peasant area planted with cane, an objective that some provinces like Havana have already achieved.

This means that the growth in the 5-year period will be 6,500 caballerias of cane in the private sector.

With relation to production, the increases expected are significant. The 904 million arrobas ground in the 1980 harvest will increase to 1.61 billion arrobas in 1985, a growth of more than 700 million in the 5-year period.

It should be pointed out that materialization of the "Governing Plan" will greatly simplify attention and services by the enterprises and the state.

To give an idea, the structure in the cane enterprises has parallelly improved. Even though it is not all attributable to organization of the peasants, this has contributed enormously. Of the 674 districts that existed in the enterprises, 67 were produced last year and we now find ourselves in the process of reducing another 100.

Already in this harvest the cooperatives, with their own resources and forces, have cut 118 million arrobas manually and 89 million arrobas with mechanized means. This represents 36 percent of the total cane that the peasants harvest with their own forces.

The established criterion in the sale of resources is based on a movement generated in the cooperatives to include at least 60 caballerias of land with

60 percent planted in cane; that is, the volume of production and the daily work permit optimum use of the resources allocated.

We now have 121 cooperatives of the so-called 60x60 type and 37 smaller ones to which resources were guaranteed.

We have not gone into an analysis of deficiencies and problems in the work like, for example, lack of fulfillment in the bulldozing plans, housing construction, etc., because we are sure that these problems will be steadily resolved with the coordinated and systematic work of ANAP and the ministry.

Finally, we want to point out that our ministry will continue working hard with ANAP to carry out the objectives that we have jointly proposed and to successfully fulfill the agreements and resolutions of the Sixth Congress as well as the guidelines of our commander in chief.

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CSO: 3248/73

CIEGO DE AVILA ANAP HEAD NOTES CPA PROGRESS

Havana ANAP in Spanish Aug 82 pp 4-5

[Interview with Sergio Gonzalez Gonzalez, ANAP president in Ciego de Avila Province, by Cornelio Batista Almaguer; date and place not specified]

[Text] The successes achieved by ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] in Ciego de Avila Province include winning first place in the 17 de Mayo Sugar Harvest Emulation of ANAP and the award for the best work in the cooperative movement in salute to the Sixth ANAP Congress. We interviewed the ANAP president in that province, Sergio Gonzalez Gonzalez.

The obvious topic was the sugar harvest. The peasant leader stated: "All the cutters were organized into brigades aspiring to be million-arroba brigades, fulfillers in manual and mechanized cutting. Concerning mechanized cutting, we must note the support that we received from the Ministry of Agriculture and MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] in retraining combine operators and haulers, respectively.

"This permitted mechanized cutting to go from five CPA [Agriculture and Livestock Cooperative] in the previous harvest to nine now with a total of 22 machines to cover more than 23 million arrobas. All the brigades reached the distinction of 1 million arrobas while productivity of 414 arrobas per man was achieved in manual cutting."

Also 20 cutters were named decimillionaire workers by cutting more than 100,000 arrobas. Three collectives cut more than 2 million arrobas: the 9 de Abril CPA, Batalla de Jigue CPA and Martires del Granma CPA.

"Our forces cut more than 50 million arrobas under a plan of 42 million for manual and mechanized cutting. The objectives that made it possible for this province to achieve such a high award include optimum organization of the harvest, correct programming of the cutting, the consistent application of the emulation indices, appropriate attention to the cutters, the plan for political support in each collective and strict compliance with the technical norms set by MINAZ. There are also other moral factors present due to the awareness of this group of men, saluting the Sixth ANAP Congress with the best work in the harvest. Within this context, the contribution of the CPA should be mentioned; they cut, reaped and hauled their cane."

Cooperative Work

Concerning the work of the cooperative movement, the provincial ANAP president stated: "Ciego de Avila has 80 CPA with more than 3,500 caballerias or 56 percent of the peasant land. Out of this number, 49 are cane CPA, 12 grow varied crops, 12 tobacco, 5 livestock, 1 citrus and 1 flowers.

"These cooperatives receive considerable resources from the state including 22 cane combines, 55 trucks, 61 tractors, 23 reapers, 114 carts, 6 jeeps and other implements. They total more than 1,800 pieces of equipment with an estimated value of more than 5 million pesos.

"The economic results achieved by the CPA are very good. They work on the construction of new, comfortable housing for the families of the members. Other CPA have received electricity. It is expected that other groups will receive this vital service this year. We have more than 3,000 members in the CPA with more than 700 women.

"We have achieved important political advances in the CPA in this province. There are 30 PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] cells organized in them with more than 400 members and 7 base committees of the Union of Young Communists which have strengthened the political work of the peasants in the CPA.

"The fraternal emulation that this province holds with Matanzas concerning incorporation of land and members into the CPA merits separate mention. This has helped us to a great degree in the advance of ANAP members toward superior forms of production because it is a constant stimulus. The encounters between the two provinces have acted as a spur to improve our work. The emulation that the CPA in our province carry out with those in Matanzas--four of them--is considered a moving force for all the work of these collectives. We can cite the fraternal struggle between the Ignacio Agramonte CPA in Ciego de Avila and its Matanzas counterpart, the Augusto Olivares CPA, which have both been visited by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro."

Then Sergio told us: "Now the CPA are working on cleaning, cultivating and fertilizing as well as the rest of the programmed activities, emphasizing strict fulfillment of the cleaning plan for the cane areas, a priority task in the country. We are looking for the best way to continue increasing cane areas and the growth of the CPA in area and members and to increase the cane yields per caballeria to more than 100,000 arrobas per caballeria in 1985--which many have already done. Our best salute to 26 July was to reach that date with all the cane free of weeds; that means at least 1,696 caballerias. Every base organism guaranteed its plan for May, June and July.

"There was also work on tying tobacco in order to store some 17,000 quintals of that product."

Finally, the ANAP leader added: "The province aspires to have four of its municipalities have more than 80 percent of their land in CPA and the remaining municipalities more than 50 percent by the end of this year. There is work

on other activities with a spirit of victory to fulfill the technical-economic plan for the year that includes production of more than 1 million quintals of vegetables and produce in 1982. We will fulfill other important indices like the peasant advance in the battle for ninth grade and the other political, social, cultural and sports activities included in the Historic Date's plan of our beloved peasant organization."

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FAR OFFICER DISCUSSES SOCIAL PROPERTY

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 30 Sep 82 No 39 pp 12-13

[Article by Lt Col Jesus Martinez Pedrosa]

[Text] The abolition of capitalist ownership and the establishment of social ownership of the basic means of production is a major, objective and regular development in the transition from capitalism to socialism.

The thoroughgoing observance of the principles stemming from this regular development in the construction of socialism enables the proletariat and their Marxist-Leninist party to transform the capitalist ownership system into a socialist ownership system and, in so doing, to lay the groundwork needed to revolutionize other economic relations and the social superstructure that rests on them.

This regular development applies in all countries that are building socialism but it does not mean that they all proceed in identical fashion in carrying forward the socialist revolution.

In their in-depth study of the capitalist system of production, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels discovered that the law that set this entire social setup in motion was the law of surplus value. They thus reached the scientific conclusion that the emergence of a socialist system of production was impossible within that society.

Nowhere and under no circumstances did the capitalists allow the proletariat to take control of the basic means of production.

Thus the working class was faced with the historic need to abolish the capitalist ownership of the basic means of production. It was for this reason that Marxism's founders decided that after taking political power the proletariat's primary task was to abolish private property. The Communist Manifesto states: "After taking political power, the proletariat will avail itself of this power to gradually wrest all capital away from the bourgeoisie, to see to it that all tools of production remain in State hands (in other words, the proletariat organized as the ruling class) and to expand the forces of production as quickly as possible" (K. Marx and F. Engels, Complete Works in Three Volumes, Vol 1, p 129, "Progreso" Publishing, Moscow, 1976).

From this brilliant idea we can deduce that if a dictatorship of the proletariat is not established, we cannot talk about revolutionary changes at the social grass roots or in the social superstructure. It is precisely with the takeover of political power by the working class, in league with the peasants, that the socialist revolution begins, a revolution whose substance is the abolition of the capitalist system of production and the establishment of the socialist system, which is based on the collective ownership of the means of production and on labor free of exploitation.

Lenin's theories on the revolutionary shift to socialist ownership have been confirmed by the Cuban Revolution.

When the revolution triumphed in January 1959, the political power that was in the hands of Fulgencio Batista's regime passed into the hands of the Rebel Army headed by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro Ruz. For the first time in the history of the international labor and communist movement a socialist revolution had triumphed in a dependent country with a distorted economic structure that was dominated by the major Yankee monopolies, a country just 90 miles from their shores.

Thus, revolutionary changes in the economic base and superstructure have very specific characteristics, and those of the Cuban Revolution made a further contribution to the Marxist-Leninist theory of the socialist revolution.

One very significant feature of the Cuban Revolution is how it resolved the problem of socializing the means of production.

As we know, there are three basic ways to accomplish this socialization: a) nationalization without compensation (which is merely confiscation); b) nationalization with partial or total compensation for the property to be nationalized (which is nationalization with indemnification), and c) the socialist transformation of capitalist ownership through the various forms of State capitalism.

In our country the revolutionary government employed the first two methods and not the third. Nationalization without compensation (confiscation) was resorted to in the case of the large foreign and domestic companies that played a decisive role in the country's distorted economy and whose owners engaged in various kinds of sabotage against the revolution. Nationalization with compensation was used in the case of small capitalist holdings and some larger companies.

Given the tight economic blockade and the constant attacks by Yankee imperialism and the internal counterrevolution, the Cuban Revolution could not abolish private property through State capitalism.

The act of abolishing private capitalist property and establishing social property is just the start of the process of socializing the means of production. Once the socialist nationalization has been accomplished,

the nationalized means of production must be utilized in a practical and conscientious manner. This is a slower and more complex process than nationalization, inasmuch as it is accomplished through efforts of persuasion with the workers, not by decree or revolutionary violence.

Another specific feature of the process of establishing social property in our country has to do with the pace of revolutionary change, which has been the topic of much discussion among scholars of the Cuban Revolution.

We know that the pace of revolutionary change is not the same in all countries. It depends on many internal and external factors. V.I. Lenin said in this regard: "All nations will come to socialism. This is inevitable. But they will all come differently. Each will contribute a certain degree of originality in this or that form of democracy, in this or that variety of the dictatorship of the proletariat, in this or that pace of socialist transformations of the various facets of life in society" (V.I. Lenin, "On the Caricature of Marxism," Complete Works, Vol 23, p 67, Politica Publishing, 1963).

It was an extraordinarily quick process, because in just 22 months (the first stage of the revolution) it placed in the hands of the Cuban people, as represented by the Revolutionary Government, the large landed estates and the major companies and factories of foreign capitalists. Later, during the second stage of the revolution, we nationalized the rest of the capitalist holdings that remained in the hands of large and small owners.

We thus set the stage for building the new socialist economic base and superstructure.

Some Particular Features of Socialist Property

Socialist property essentially means that the workers own the basic means of production and the products of their labor.

Socialist property conditions the new nature of social production, the emergence of the objective economic laws that are inherent to it, the education of the worker in achieving the goals of socialist production, the radical transformation of the nature of labor and the distribution of its fruits. In addition, it lays the necessary groundwork for the development of the national economy and other spheres of socialist society.

There are two traditional forms of social property: State ownership by the entire nation and socialist cooperative ownership. Both are the result of abolishing private capitalist ownership of industry, banking, land and other spheres of the national economy.

Two forms of socialist enterprise thus emerge: state-run and cooperative. The two are socially homogeneous and governed by the law of harmonious and proportional economic development.

The predominant form of socialist property is the socialist state-run enterprise that belongs to the entire nation, because it represents the highest level of socialization of the means of production and comprises all of the decisive branches of the national economy.

Cooperative ownership brings together small-scale farmers, livestock raisers, fishermen, etc. Their property belongs to the members of the cooperative, not to the entire nation.

Another major difference between the two types of property is that the State cannot decide what to do with the cooperative's output and assets, as it can with state-run enterprises. The members of the cooperative make these decisions.

We should also underscore that the differences between state-run enterprises and cooperatives are also related to their distinct levels of socialization of the means of production (this has to do with the degree of economic autonomy, the management methods in these enterprises and remuneration).

Our party's platform says the following about socialist property: "Socialist property encompasses all of the sectors of the economy, except transportation, a small portion of which is still privately owned, and agriculture, in which, however, the state-run sector controls more than 70 percent of the country's farm land" (Platform of the Cuban Communist Party, Position Paper and Resolution, p 48, published by the Revolutionary Orientation Department, Havana, 1976).

We can deduce from this that the state-run sector of our economy is predominant, which contributes to the rapid and planned development of production forces in spite of the enormous difficulties imposed on us by the economic blockade and the current world situation. Meanwhile, less than 30 percent of the country's lands are owned by our peasant farmers.

With the agricultural revolution that is under way Cuba is making continued progress towards superior forms of production in the countryside, all of which confirms Lenin's theory on the socialist transformation of agriculture.

We have seen some of the things involved in abolishing private property and in establishing social ownership of the basic means of production, which is a regular, objective development in the construction of socialism, and we have examined the particular features of this development in Cuba.

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CSO: 3248/90

SOVIET AGRICULTURE EXPERT INTERVIEWED ON AID

Havana ANAP in Spanish Aug 82 pp 30-31

[Interview with Nicolay Kutsenko, specialist in the Economic Mission of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, by Manuel Buendia; date and place not specified]

[Text] "Technical and economic cooperation in the agricultural sector between the Soviet Union and Cuba improves and increases annually."

Nicolay Kutsenko, agricultural expert in the Economic Mission of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, made that statement during an interview with our magazine.

He added: "Speaking about cooperation between our two countries in the agricultural sector, the special importance of Soviet supplies to the Island of Freedom must be kept in mind. These not only include food products, livestock feed, mineral fertilizers and chemical means for plant protection but also agricultural machinery with spare parts, irrigation machines and other equipment necessary for agricultural and livestock production."

Expanding on the theme, he said that, in accord with intergovernmental agreements, the Soviet Union cooperates with Cuba to achieve increased production of sugar and citrus, soil improvement and organization of irrigation. It also supplies the equipment for the repair and maintenance shops for agricultural machinery.

"In the present 5-year period, Soviet supplies to Cuba of equipment for laboratories, plant protection stations and mechanization of poultry and pig farms have increased considerably."

Aid in Livestock Development

[Question] Isn't the Soviet-Cuban cooperation based on agreements signed each year between the two countries?

[Answer] Yes, it is. Beginning in 1974 between the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture and the Cuban MINAG [Ministry of Agriculture], the scientific-technical cooperation is based on annual and 5-year protocols. They cover joint agricultural research and an exchange of specialists to learn the achievements of science and advanced experiments. They also send technicians in different branches of agricultural science and production.

[Question] Can you tell us concretely about the aid that Cuba receives from the USSR in each agricultural specialty--for example, livestock, mechanization, etc.?

[Answer] We will begin with livestock. In recent years, the Soviet and Cuban specialists have carried out a great joint effort in this important aspect of agriculture. Our technicians pay special attention to the development of livestock, the creation of a forage base and the introduction of the most advanced technologies. They also do intensive work on raising new breeds and lines of pigs and hens as well as in veterinarian medicine.

He noted that the hard work of the Cubans and the aid from the Soviet specialists have led to accelerated development of the livestock branch and contribute to higher rates in increased production of eggs, poultry meat and pork, as the people well know.

Agricultural Mechanization

[Question] What can you tell us about agricultural mechanization?

[Answer] Each year our cooperation expands in the integral mechanization of agricultural production, the rational use of machines and tractors, improvement of technical maintenance and machinery repair.

He added that representatives of the USSR and Cuba jointly draw up proposals on machines for the integral mechanization of agricultural cultivation and harvesting. They are also looking for solutions to laborious livestock processes.

He recalled that, in May 1981, an exhibit of innovators and efficiency experts was organized in Cuba for the first time with the participation of Soviet specialists. It gave a powerful impetus to subsequent development of the work of agricultural mechanizers.

Expanding on this theme, he said that there is work in a number of automobile repair enterprises on the manufacture of different agricultural machines and equipment, increased production of spare parts and new methods to fix tractors and cars.

He then stated: "All this permits Cuba to reduce imports of machines and spare parts from other countries and save foreign currency."

Then he spoke of the prospects:

"With the participation of Soviet specialists, a plan of requirements in agricultural machinery for the coming years up through 1990 has been drawn up, keeping in mind the types and brands of equipment. Calculations were made to create the necessary basis for the organization of technical repairs and maintenance. The amount of electrical energy indispensable for agriculture in Cuba was discussed and analyzed and proposals on the economic consumption of fuels and lubricants are being written."

Agrochemical Service

Then we asked Kutsenko to talk to us about the aid his country gives ours in agrochemical service. He answered immediately, an example of the mastery they have in their specialties.

"Our collaboration in the organization of an agrochemical service in agriculture and the correct use of soils and fertilizers has been successful for some years. Now we are drawing up measures to fight against soil salinization and acidity. We are adopting anti-erosion measures which help increase the fertility of the land and the productivity of crops."

He stated that the construction of dams and irrigation systems and the rational use of water resources also hold an important place in our scientific-technical cooperation.

The dialogue was interrupted for several minutes because an official had to urgently consult the specialist. We used this pause to put together the next question related to our peasants. We asked it as soon as the comrade Nikolay was helping left.

Work Related to Peasantry

[Question] What type of aid do the Soviet technicians give in relation to the peasantry?

[Answer] We can tell you that the Soviet specialists provide consultation to the Cuban peasants on regulation of the land system and rational use of agricultural land as well as on matters related to peasant cooperatives.

"Now two Soviet specialists (Francisco Mancilla Caramez and Vladimir Balaban) are working in the MINAG Directorate of Attention to the Peasant Sector. They drew up a series of proposals and recommendations for the peasant cooperatives that lead to improvement of work remuneration in the cooperatives and the regulation organizing the national cooperative."

He also revealed that the Soviet specialists along with Cuban technicians drew up recommendations on the mutual relations of the CPA [Agriculture and Livestock Cooperatives] and CCS [Credit and Service Cooperative] with the state financial organs and enterprises that provide supplies, storage, services and other control.

Plant Protection

[Question] What can you tell us about cooperation in the plant health field?

[Answer] With the active participation of Soviet specialists, an integral system of plant protection against diseases, insects and weeds was drawn up and applied successfully in Cuba. Now the MINAG General Directorate for Plant Health has its own scientific research institute. Plant protection directorates and laboratories were established in each province and 50 territorial

plant protection stations operate throughout the country with centers for forecasting that help state enterprises and cooperatives fight and prevent diseases and insects.

There are also 22 border points for plant quarantine which control agricultural freight that enters the country. The high efficiency of the work of the plant protection service in this country is demonstrated by the rapid elimination of dangerous diseases in Cuba like, for example, the sugar-cane rust and the tobacco blue mold.

Forestry Work

We asked about the aid received from Soviet specialists in the forestry sector. Gonzalez answered that his compatriots provide cooperation in silviculture, forestry organization and creation of forestry production enterprises in the Cuban forestry sector.

Evaluation of Cooperation During These Years

Lastly we asked Nikolay Kutsenko to give us an evaluation of the results of the Soviet technical-scientific cooperation in the agricultural sector during recent years. After a moment of silence to gather his thoughts and give us an overall definition, the specialist from the Economic Mission answered:

"We can conclude that the Soviet and Cuban specialists do work toward the improvement of the leadership of the agricultural branches in general, organization of scientific research, increased production, increased productivity and qualification of the workers, agricultural mechanization and cadre training.

"As a result of the work done, agricultural production and the productivity of the crops and of livestock constantly increase. This makes it possible to better satisfy the food needs of Cuba through national production and, therefore, reduce its imports. Also the potential of national exports of sugar, citrus, coffee, fruit, honey and other agricultural products increases."

In conclusion, he spoke to us about present plans:

"Now the efforts of the Soviet and Cuban specialists are concentrated on the successful realization of the agreements of the Second PCC Congress concerning the accelerated development of agriculture and its increased efficiency as the main branch of the national economy. We do all our work satisfied to be contributing so that the Cuban revolution continues advancing and fulfilling the postulates of proletarian internationalism."

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DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH MAGAZINE DISCUSSED

Havana UPEC in Spanish May-June 82 pp 26-28

[Text] The tastes and preferences of young people tend to be as changeable as television serials are. The performer, the style of dressing themselves or the dance music that now captures their attention is not the same as the one that did a few months ago nor will it probably be the one that will during the next few months.

Adolescence represents a period of substantial transformations in the life of every human being. During it some habits are reaffirmed and others are acquired. It is a crucible that will determine the future adult and hence the importance of the political-ideological education with which we inculcate our young people.

For the purposes of journalism for young people, the process of feedback, the supreme aspiration of the mass communications media in the socialist system, is a vital necessity in order to retain the interest of the recipients of the message. This constant interchange with our young people promotes, first, knowledge of the extent to which the contents of each published item is being assimilated and in which ones the language approaches their world and, second, and no less important because of that, perception of their concerns and tastes.

Taking stock of these two problems enables us to find the appropriate language for those topics which, because of their importance in the training of a self-contained personality, should constantly appear in the publication while, familiar with the interests of the readers, proper information about them can be provided. The close link between both objectives will result in the systematic realization of communist propaganda.

The main channel for relating to the reader is the publication itself and this comes out when the reader selects it from among all those publications that are in the store. This is an indication, but it is not enough. Having only this is equivalent to groping about in a changing world. This relationship can be lost at any moment if we cease being the mirror in which it is reflected.

This is one of the problems SOMOS JOVENES has had to face during its 5 years of existence as a bimonthly publication aimed at youths between 14 and 20 years of age. Therefore, in addition to the magazine-reader relationship referred to

above, other channels have been utilized — based on some of the experiences of the youth communications media in socialist countries — which in part guarantee the process of feedback in order to more firmly orient the propaganda effort.

The systematic upgrading of correspondence is one of our chief experiments. Through this channel problems have been eliminated and the concerns of these youths have been responded to. A greater bond between those who read and those who publish the magazine has been forged and should become stronger. In 1981 2,562 letters were received and answered and this year 2,146 of the 2,260 that needed answering.

The reply alone constitutes a direct and individual guidance channel that may go from providing details on the life of an actor to offering advice on sexual or legal conflicts, subject to prior consultation with specialists.

Analysis of this correspondence contributes a wide world of information interests which the recipients possess, a point of departure for the adaptation of journalistic efforts and also a basis for sociological studies, for example, how few students subject to the national education system learn how to spell properly.

Another method that is employed consists of debates on a topic proposed by the readers or on one, given the situation they are in, which constitutes one of the problems of young people; recreation is one case in point. This is a way for us to seek out specific opinions, criticisms or requests which we are interested in hearing about, dealing with, checking on.

When he meets with a group of young people to debate a specific topic, at the conclusion of the session every editor asks for opinions on the publication, thus obtaining first hand a statement of opinion which, although it is partial, concerns the magazine's public.

The result of a survey conducted for the purpose of finding out what readers liked or did not like about SOMOS JOVENES gave rise to a debate in which the healthy spirit of controversy offered a vast field of immediate efforts to be made and also the way in which to tackle them.

Particularly the survey is another way of getting to be thoroughly informed about the reader. By way of example, the one mentioned in the preceding paragraph produced the following results: As those who answered the questionnaire apparently feel, internationalism is the subject that should be discussed the most in the pages of the magazine, while Sergio Corrieri captured the largest number of votes for best performer. Sexual education remains among those topics most preferred and the theater among those least so.

An interesting point of information in the case of these surveys is the fact that they are processed by youths, although the final data are, of course, handled by specialists.

The holding of competitions is also a means of getting closer to the reader and getting opinions from him. In them the youth is requested to come up with a reply or perform a task that he has to accomplish on the basis of his own experience, not something that he can look up in a book or other sources, which would falsify what we want to know about him: his level of ideological development, his real opinion, his knowledge or ignorance.

The one held in connection with the Moscow Olympics produced an avalanche of letters that forced us to increase the number of prizes from two to five trips to the site of the games and provided information on how they felt about the sport facilities in the municipalities, whether the sports preferred by the competitors coincide with those accorded priority in this country and other details.

Meetings at and excursions to different places engaged in between the SOMOS JOVENES collective and students or workers have been other ways of establishing emotional ties and in this way, through closer social exchanges, of obtaining opinions on those problems and concerns felt to be urgent by young people and of getting closer in a more open and sincere way to their opinions on the efforts that are being made on their behalf.

This modest arsenal of experience over a period of 5 years constitutes a short stretch on the road to carrying on a publication that aspires to be of and for young people. Through it we strive to see to it that the recipient becomes an active subject in the process of communication and for this reason feedback becomes a reality. This will be the real link with our young people, with their way of evaluating and analyzing things, their dreams and hopes. They are the indispensable stimulus for continuing to engage in journalism for young people, and why not? They also represent our dreams of what a reader should be.

11,466
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ACTIVITIES AT METAL SULPHIDES PLANT REPORTED

Havana INDUSTRIA BASICA in Spanish Apr-Jun 82 pp 45-48

[Article by Miriam Zito]

[Text] Under the watchword, "saving, an expression of revolutionary conscience," Sulfometales [metal sulphides] workers are day by day turning measures that guarantee plant operation, saving a maximum of energy, fuel and raw materials, into reality.

As a response to Council of Ministers Resolution 667 relating to the saving of fuel and energy, committees in enterprises and agencies that have analyzed consumption of these items have been formed in Pinar del Rio at the provincial level.

Echoing this directive, Sulfometales management and political and mass organizations have set up parameters to maintain strict control over the expenditure of electricity and fuel and the sensible use of equipment, which has earned them an outstanding rank in the provincial competition tally.

Worked out in economic figures, this is equivalent to saying that during only one half of 1981 2 million kw less than during the same period last year were consumed with the same production volumes.

These results are not due to chance, but to the sensible use of different kinds of key equipment like ore transporters (skeep), traveling cranes and compressors that are directly involved in the production process. Combined with supervision in the maintenance system, this has permitted them to cut down consumption, which had risen to a total of 200 kwh during the peak hours, from 1800 to 2200.

Other measures having to do with an adjustment in the cargo handling plan, the substitution of fluorescent for incandescent lighting and translucent roof tiles in some areas to take advantage of natural light were implemented subject to prior discussion with the workers at the different production meetings.

At present two economizing committees, one for energy and fuel, established at the end of 1979, and the other for raw materials, both chaired by Juan Santiesteban, chief of the production department, are in operation.

The raw materials committee operates like the energy committee, but this year difficulties have cropped up in acid production since the processed ore is different in its chemico-mineralogical composition from that required by the technology installed at the plant. This has led to an increase in the consumption of sulphur, a basic element in the sulphuric acid process.

Making Efficient Use of Fuel

Many measures have been adopted to make fuel consumption more efficient, Sulfometales chief of technology Rene Garcia Otano told us.

He went on to say that the preheater, for example, located in the acid plant, is designed to operate for from 5 to 10 days at a stretch. Because of problems with the thermal insulation and the low conversion rate during catalysis, the equipment was in uninterrupted operation for 3 years with a daily consumption of from 900 to 1,000 gallons of oil. At the end of 1980 the conditions were created to partially discontinue its use and months later they succeeded in eliminating it from the continuous process. Now it is used when the shutdowns last for more than 10 hours, which meant an approximate saving of over 60,000 gallons of oil during the months that had elapsed.

Rene explained that, due to production requirements, in the lead section they had been using a torch aside from the regular burner installed in the alloy pot for the purpose of accelerating the process. Once they had analyzed the situation, they decided that the regular burner was sufficient, a measure that represented a savings of 30 gallons of fuel a day.

In the same section they had been working without meters, instruments that have now been installed and permit more exact control, not only to measure consumption, but to plan future amounts.

All these measures are discussed once a month at a meeting of the unit's economic board of directors which division and department chiefs and the political and mass organizations participate in. The results are later analyzed at production meetings at which they discuss the amounts expended and the savings achieved in each section of the plant.

Founded in 1971 by Commander "Che" Guevara, the plant was built to produce 100,000 tons of acid a year with two production lines and six furnaces in operation. The technical equipment it was provided with was to process iron pyrites, gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc, among other metallic ores.

However, the plant has always run into difficulties in meeting production quotas due to the fact that the sulphur and metal content of the raw material has not been adapted to the processing technology. This in addition to the shortage of spare parts and equipment has forced plant technicians to come up with innovations representing about a million pesos a year in assets.

The labor expended by the innovators is evident in the stable operation of the plant, which has enabled it to guarantee the country a supply of sulphuric acid, an effort acknowledged on many occasions by the chemical, mining and energy labor union.

It has meant a lot to Sulfometales to have small units capable of supplying 90 percent of the spare parts for national construction, due to specialization of workers in the machine, tinsmith and lead soldering shops.

Many pieces of equipment have been subjected to innovations and others manufactured out of whole cloth, like the lead pumps used in the washing and dilution section, the construction of the impeller for the main extractor and the fabrication of wet electrofilters valued at approximately \$100,000 on the world market.

For the 5-Year Period

Among other items, Sulfometales is at present manufacturing a 98-percent concentrate of sulphuric acid supplied to the rayon and electrochemical industries and fertilizers to procure superphosphate.

It is producing a 6-percent lead alloy from scrap lead, electrolytic solution and silumin, a mineral that replaces imports from the capitalist area and much used in the manufacture of parts for sprinkler pipeline.

The plant is supplied by a nearby multimetalllic surface deposit known as the Santa Lucia quarry, but they are looking into the possibility of using the pyrite concentrate obtained from the Jucaro mine located in Bahia Honda.

The plant is to undergo a general overhaul for the 5-year period including the acid and roasting sections, which will limit the growth of production quotas and subordinate acid production to the technical overhauling of the equipment.

To say that at Sulfometales they are seriously working to reduce to a minimum the consumption of energy and fuel is to acknowledge the efforts of its 450 workers, who have never taken a single step backward, rather two forward to positively respond to the difficulties they face.

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CURRENT WORK SAFETY PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Havana INDUSTRIA BASICA in Spanish Apr-Jun 82 pp 42-44

[Article by Rafael Alhama; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Job safety and hygiene problems closely affect every one of us due to the fact that a number of related factors in the field of working conditions is involved. And these conditions are always present in some way, be it in an office, a service installation, a workshop, a factory or in a rural area.

But we are faced with the paradox that something of such importance is rarely commented on unless it be in terms of job accidents; and yet we do not go so far as to handle this as we would the slightest traffic accident, unless there are serious consequences between times. Nevertheless, we all know that this sphere of activity represents a social and economic problem which claims tens of thousands of lives the world over if we want to count in terms of accidents. We do not propose to identify job safety and hygiene nor poke about in our fragmentary and poorly systematized knowledge of the relations that exist among the degrees of contingency of different factors and accident probability.

Nor will we resort to the formula of "concealing one's own sin with that of many others" either; rather we want to discuss the topic from an optimistic and practical point of view, a simple one — which is not synonymous with superficial — for the purpose of contributing to clarifying the matter for us and to resolve the tasks we have set ourselves in the allotted time.

Our objective in this article is, first, to underline the importance of considering problems of job safety and hygiene in terms of the general problems involved in the improvement of working conditions and to do so as an integral part of and in close association with the organization of labor.

We often hear the now stereotyped phrases, "...we don't know how....," "...we have no resources....," "...we aren't ready....," so that the inability to comprehend and interpret the real situation or look for suitable solutions "here and now" is concealed and justified due to more or less real and objective situations in our economic and social development, which requires all sorts of solutions. Individuals with unjustifiable prejudices of this kind are incapable of thinking of or applying an appropriate solution, independently of the qualitative level on which they may find themselves, because they are forever in a situation of "non-preparedness."

Nor can or should the assertion that man has broader possibilities at his levels of adaptation to the environment on any account be raised on high as a justification of a let-things-go-by-and-do-nothing attitude in the domain of improvement of those factors that comprise working conditions either. It is inadmissible for us to interpret our job safety and hygiene policy as a defensive, passive policy, to apply the law or the standards when something happens. It must above all be a constructive and active policy. The task can obviously not be carried out by designating someone "responsible" for this activity or approving a labor department within the organization that is dedicated to the task, one in practice often nonexistent as are the functions it should perform.

Job Safety and Hygiene and Working Conditions

One of the factors that has a bearing on the form and development of working conditions is the labor-legislation basis for them. For this purpose, the National Assembly of the People's Government in 1977 passed Law No 13 governing job safety and hygiene which, adopting agreement /of the systematic improvement of working conditions/ with the technical and economic development of the country as a premise, in Articles 5 and 7 notes that: "the objective of job safety is to guarantee safe and appropriate working conditions, prevent job accidents, etc....," and that "the objective of job hygiene is to prevent occupational illnesses and guarantee hygienic and healthy working conditions through the /study, investigation and supervision of hygienic and sanitary conditions in the job environment and of the psycho-physiological behavior of the workers and of how they are affected as a result of the influence of the work, the way it is organized and the job environment."/ (The emphasis is ours.)

That is to say, the law covers the aggregate of physical as well as psychological and job organization factors. This not only implicitly contributes to worker participation in the designing and planning of working conditions, but in a broad view of things (H-T-MA) explicitly includes all those factors involved in the process of job activity which may contribute to guaranteeing safe, hygienic and appropriate working conditions through the creation of a sensible economy of the human organism in a favorable physical and biological, social and psychological environment. Article No 179, formulated for the country's economic and social development during the 1976-1980 5-year period, further states: "/Systematic improvement of the job environment/ at workplaces... that may favor the well-being and health of the workers and help train them in safe working habits and increase productivity," as one of the requirements for raising the level of living and working conditions. Here we see another of the principles of the job safety and hygiene system formulated, namely the systematic improvement of working conditions. But the laws and resolutions are only useful in terms of the way the standards and the measures that have produced them are supervised in their application, which in turn is a function of how they are formulated. The fact that in our socialist society the necessary premises are being created for orienting and appropriately organizing the conditions in which work activities are conducted does not mean that they can be achieved by decree. "They require sensible organization of the work process and production and involve objective planning that takes into consideration the needs of people and the abilities of the environment in which they work to satisfy such needs," (Alhama 1979). The care and expense that arise

in this domain are economically justifiable and necessary when we are talking about sensibly organized production and labor. Working conditions are indissolubly linked with the health and hygiene policy, the education system and sociopolitical and economic plans, and cannot be separated from the consideration that governs the development of our socialist society, namely that man is our most precious asset. As the creator of all his assets, he also is and must be the creator of his working conditions, and these are directly related to the socioeconomic development we have achieved. It was not in vain that our commander in chief, Dr Fidel Castro, pointed out that "development is chiefly regard for human beings, who are the protagonists and the goal of any development effort." The improvement of working conditions must be a (dynamic, changing, continuous) process involving the analysis of specific situations at every workplace and the adoption of a program consisting of improvements and measures favorable in terms of priorities, taking into account the importance of this and the cost that it involves. This requires of us that we understand and achieve the social and economic objectives of the working conditions problem in terms of its organic unity, because of its importance in the multifaceted development of personality, the preservation of people's health and the raising of productivity. As early as 1976, at an ILO meeting it was recognized that "improvement of the job environment should be understood to be a global problem whose different, interrelated factors influence the worker's physical and mental well-being." But while the objectives, at least the general ones, agreeing with the appraisal accorded this activity in our society, are clear, we would not say the same of their "effectiveness," that is, as directly concerns the "decisions and actions" engaged in on the basis of the connection between our scientific and technical knowledge of labor and specific solutions to the problems that have been raised. The social and economic aspects should not and cannot be viewed as contradicting one another, but as two aspects of the same reality which is of interest to the society, the workers and the state. The interests of our workers are the interests of the socialist state. And when measures are adopted to improve working conditions, we do so out of a need to humanize work, a victory for socialism.

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PROBLEMS AT CHLORINE-SODA PLANT DESCRIBED

Havana INDUSTRIA BASICA in Spanish Apr-Jun 82 pp 7-9

[Article by Mildred O'Bourke]

[Text] The new chlorine-soda plant, as they call it at Sagua la Grande, was built on the outskirts of this lovely city, just as many other plants have been raised in the area since the revolutionary victory as part of the province's economic development.

The chlorine-soda plant is part of the Sagua Electrochemical Enterprise. This enterprise also possesses three other installations: the one known as the old electrochemical plant, the Raul Cepero Bonilla Plant where disinfectants are bottled and the Santa Clara Oxygen Plant.

The new chlorine-soda plant was contracted for in 1976 from the KREBS company and is equipped with a very modern French technology. The project was begun in 1977 and was completed by September 1980. However, due to certain difficulties, the warranty tests have been delayed and production has not been developed on a permanent basis. It is almost certain that the situation will be normal by the time this report is issued.

The total cost of the investment came to 17.519 billion pesos, 344.5 million of which went for civil construction and 8,870,800,000 for equipment, but the bare figures cannot give us a real idea of the efforts of the construction workers and the difficulties they had to get around to meet the deadlines for construction and assembly they were pledged to.

Nine technical sections make up the machinery of this installation: a chlorine treatment plant, a sodium-hypochloride manufacturing plant, a hydrochloric acid manufacturing plant, a mercury decontamination plant, storage facilities, auxiliary services and an air-compression plant.

Five basic products are manufactured at the plant. They are: liquid chlorine, used in swimming-pool water and as a bleaching agent for paper; caustic soda, to make soap and rayon; sodium hypochloride, also used to disinfect aqueducts and swimming pools and as a bleaching agent in dry-cleaning establishments; 32-percent hydrochloric acid, used as a disinfectant and in cleaning heat exchanger equipment; and hydrogen.

The chief raw materials are sodium chloride, or common salt, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, infusorial earth for filtering, Freon R22, sodium sulphate, mercury and some special resins, among others. The plant consumes a large quantity of electricity.

There are no problems involving size of operation with nationally produced raw materials. Salt, which has been sent from Caimanera with some delay, has produced the biggest headache. Furthermore, it has been arriving contaminated with heavy metals that are hard to detect and separate and are very hazardous for the industrial process. With regard to this, the management of the chlorine-soda plant has been discussing the measures it ought to adopt to avoid transport inconveniences and the presence of contaminating elements in the salt. This does not happen with imported raw materials. The agency responsible for it has not been able to supply the plant on time despite the fact that the materials were ordered in advance. This delay may have been caused by a lack of prior experience with these products in Cuba; that is, they are being used for the first time.

Combined with the difficulties that arose while they were going into operation, this situation was responsible for the fact that they had not yet been able to conduct the warranty tests by the end of 1981. Questioned about this, engineer Nicolas Gonzalez, the shop foreman and, moreover, an amiable host, replied: "A lot of little things combined to create problems for us. The breakdown of the main transformer had a lot to do with the delaying of the warranty tests. The salt too was responsible for this and, of course, the shortage of spare parts. The company has guaranteed us spare parts for 2 years but out of need we have been using them up." He paused as though he were thinking about what he was going to say next and then went on. "We dare not lose sight of one thing. The stabilization of the plant depends on the covering of our spare part and raw material needs so that we have them on hand for any contingency. At the same time consumers have been slow in taking the finished product off our hands, thus creating an overstocking for us that may end up preventing us from producing one kind of product."

The management of the new chlorine-soda plant is taking the necessary steps to alleviate the situation and eliminate the above-mentioned obstacles so that the plant can operate at the planned capacity.

Stop to Pollution

One of the chief precautions taken by the Cuban Revolutionary Government has been to guarantee citizens a wholesome life, even from the first days of the victory when, naturally, attention had to be centered on the defense of what had been won.

To speak of what is being done in Cuba in the field of health would be to repeat something that everyone knows, but to preserve life is also to improve environmental conditions in the factories, eliminate toxicity in the old plants, most of which lack adequate systems, and build the new ones with the necessary requirements to eliminate pollution and maximally reduce any kind of potential danger to the population and the workers. This is why in the new factories

that are going up at every turn in our country particular care is being taken to see to it that they have adequate systems for controlling pollution and there is immense interest in seeing to it that workers have a pleasant and wholesome environment.

The new chlorine-soda plant is a plant in which they work with chemical substances, some of them toxic and which produce harmful effects on man. For this reason a system for purifying the products and liquid, solid and gaseous wastes was acquired along with the plant.

Comrade Nicolas expanded on the topic:

"This system for treating the different kinds of waste is a Dutch technology and guarantees mercury concentration levels within a range comparable to those obtained on a worldwide basis. Thus we guarantee that the liquid wastes dumped into the Sagua River are not contaminated and do not poison the fish. For waste materials," he added while explaining how the system works, "we work with CEMA norms, which cover pH levels, contamination with solids and a mercury concentration of 10 parts per billion, which is the established standard."

Why this concern for checking on mercury concentrations?

"Mercury is very dangerous for human beings. If, for example, the concentration just indicated is exceeded, not only can it be harmful to the extent to which it gets into the water, but also on being inhaled it can cause death or ill health among the workers. To avoid this, our plant has been designed to include large windows, high ceilings and fans to draw off the air, which ventilate and constantly renew the air, in addition to the protective devices everyone is familiar with.

"To isolate solid wastes we have opened a few recesses several meters from the plant. As they are filled, we seal them hermetically... we hope that they may some day serve us as a base for another installation."

The new chlorine-soda plant is a modern installation. To be sure, they have had to deal with tough situations, but every new plant has its hitches and corrects them during the first trial runs. We know that everything must go well at this plant; they have young workers and skilled technicians to turn it into a reality. They also have young managers who, with the dynamism of their youthful years and the love they bear for their installation, are struggling to resolve every problem. The day is not far off when this work collective will be able to realize all its dreams.

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PSUM AGREES TO UNIFICATION TALKS WITH PMT

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 4 Oct 82 pp 25-26

[Article by Oscar Hinojosa]

[Text] The Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) proposes unification talks "on the basis of different criteria than those proposed by the Mexican Workers Party (PMT), because today's circumstances are different," in a document addressed to the organization headed by Heberto Castillo.

The text of the resolution of the fourth plenum of the PSUM Central Committee, concerning the unification of the left, goes on to say:

"On this matter, it is important to bear in mind that it is not a question of renewing talks with representatives of the PMT and those of five other organizations, because the latter have ceased to exist and have fused into a single party. Now, consequently, what we have is a new exchange of opinions and a new effort, with a unified purpose, between the PSUM and the PMT."

The PSUM resolution continues:

"Under these conditions, it is not appropriate to begin at the points the PMT feels were left pending, nor at those it claims were approved; some of them were incorporated into the Declaration of Principles, the Program of Action and the PSUM Statutes, as the PMT proposed at the time. Furthermore, the points not agreed upon are precisely what the talks will deal with."

The resolution released to this reporter also says:

"The PSUM Central Committee recommends to its Political Commission that it take the pertinent steps to begin talks with the representatives designated for that purpose by the PMT, on the basis of the fact that both national and international conditions demand that we do everything necessary to further the organic unity of the revolutionary forces of Mexico; certainly the PMT shares that goal.

"Of special importance at this time is the development of unity of action, which in turn will promote the organic unification of the PSUM and the PMT."

As is well known, the PMT has always talked of resuming negotiations, on the condition that the agreements of 22 October 1981 be recognized. The agreements were negotiated by the representatives of the Socialist Action and Unity Movement (MAUS: Miguel Angel Velasco and Carlos Sanchez Cardenas); the Mexican Communist Party (PCM: Pablo Gomez and Gilberto Rincon Gallardo); the MAP [expansion unknown] (Carlos Juarez); the PPM [expansion unknown] (Manuel Stephens and Sabino Hernandez); the PSR [expansion unknown] (Raul Munoz) and the PMT (Demetrio Vallejo, David Rodriguez and Eduardo Valle).

The following agreements were reached during that unification effort, according to what Castillo reported in July (PROCESO No 298): I) Name of the party: Mexican Revolutionary Workers Party; II) Motto: For democracy and socialism; III) Name of national directorate: National Committee; IV) Existence of a National Plenum made up of the chairmen of the State Committees and the National Committee; V) The Plenum could depose and replace the secretary general; VI) The secretary general and the members of the National Committee would be elected in Congress; VII) The State Committees would be elected in the state congresses, and the secretariat would have nine members; VIII) No National Commission of Guarantees and Vigilance would exist.

But what the PMT considered agreements were merely proposals in the PSUM's view. Difficulties began to crop up.

The problems dividing the leftist parties, wrote our reporter in July, "will emerge as soon as either of the two sides calls for negotiations."

That prediction, which was not difficult to foresee, has happened now. What few can anticipate today is the depth of the problems that will arise under the new conditions proposed.

Eduardo Valle, a principal PMT official, had only this to say about the PSUM resolution (stated to the reporter by telephone):

"We were more than willing to participate in negotiations with the PSUM, and we understood them to be a resumption of the talks that were broken off in October 1981. But now I cannot express any opinion. The PMT will wait until it receives the document from the PSUM, and then it will state its position."

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PSUM ANTI-FOREIGN INVESTMENT STATEMENT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Oct 82 pp 4-A, 26-A

[Article by Nidia Marin]

[Text] The resolution allowing foreign creditors to participate in Mexican enterprises should be derogated because it is not legal, it contradicts the nationalization of the banks, it undercuts progress made toward Mexicanizing businesses, it "opens the doors" to transnationalization, and it has an immediate impact on the iron and steel, secondary chemicals, construction and paper industries, claims the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM).

Pointing out that the National Foreign Investment Commission (which issued the resolution) has "exceeded" its legal faculties in its "arbitrary" interpretation of Section XVII of Article 13 of the Law to Promote Mexican Investment and Regulate Foreign Investment, the PSUM explained that in permitting investment from abroad, the commission should take into account "in general, the extent to which it contributes to the achievement of our objectives and adheres to national development policy."

The reason for this, according to the Press Commission of the PSUM Central Committee, headed by Jose Woldenberg, is that "through a legalistic device the National Foreign Investment Commission has ignored the other 16 criteria established in the same Article 13."

He also said, "This action, in which the commission decides its own powers on its own accord, regardless of any legal provision, has been seen very rarely before."

Terming the resolution "disastrous," in that it "opens the doors to the transnationalization of our country's productive plant," the PSUM stated that "transnationalization can never be the solution to Mexico's economic problems."

General Resolution No 19, which "contains the interpretation" of Article 13, Section XVII of the Law to Promote Mexican Investment and Regulate Foreign Investment, was published in the Official Gazette on the 11th of this month. It aroused indignation in the PSUM because through it, the National Foreign Investment Commission "is giving itself the power" to grant facilities to

Mexican firms that have foreign debts so that the amount of their debt to foreign creditors will be covered by means of investments, the formation of new corporations, the capitalization of liabilities through partnership agreement, the opening of new establishments, relocations, and the initiation of new areas of economic activity or product lines.

Resolution Contradicts Law

"This resolution," emphasized the PSUM, "makes it impossible to enforce the Law to Promote Mexican Investment and Regulate Foreign Investment, and in fact opens the doors to an even greater denationalization of the most important sectors of production."

If the resolution is put into effect, "in a short time the fragile advances we have made in the Mexicanization of businesses will be cancelled out," stated the party. Furthermore, it said that the National Foreign Investment Commission "is acting in contradiction to the nationalization measure of last 1 September, and paves the way to increased dependence on imperialist capital in our economy by granting such capital all necessary faculties to take control of businesses owned by Mexican capitalists or whose majority stock is held by Mexicans."

In conclusion, the party warned that among the sectors that will be hardest hit in the short term if the resolution is put into effect, are those that are under the control of Mexican capital, such as construction, paper, secondary chemicals and iron and steel.

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PRT SEES NATIONALIZATION CAUSING POLARIZATION OF LEFT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Oct 82 pp 4-A, 20-A

[Article by Nidia Marin]

[Text] The Mexican left has become polarized as a result of the nationalization of banks, according to the Political Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT).

Although the nationalization has strengthened the Mexican left's efforts to regroup and define its goals, the PRT feels that the polarization is a fact. Meanwhile, the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) announced yesterday that the secretary of the Central Committee accepted the membership applications submitted individually and voluntarily by several dissidents of the Mexican Communist Party who had formed the Libertarian Communist Movement.

The PRT Political Committee's statement illustrates this polarization when it refers to those who have drifted away from supporting nationalization toward supporting the government, and to others who, placing emphasis "on the bourgeois nature of the measure," play down its importance and act as if nothing had happened and it were merely necessary to "unmask" the demagoguery of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

In the medium term, says the PRT, the most dangerous position is the former one. The statement refers back in history to the period after the Cardenas administration, noting the effects of the predominance of that position on the workers movement.

The PRT also believes that the latter position "has serious short-term implications," because those who maintain that stance are withdrawing from the struggle to intelligently win over the consciousness of the masses, who are now captivated by nationalism.

"This response," adds the Political Committee in its statement, "is simply that of impotent people, those who believe that any response to the nationalization is a concession to the government."

Criticism of PST, PSUM

After stating that "the masses reject the doctrines of any ideology," the PRT indicates that the masses "respond to genuine revolutionary politicians

who explain and offer options to the movements made by the State; for that reason, it is imperative that we do more than expose those who urge support for the government from positions that pass for socialist--and here we find the Socialist Workers Party mobilizing farmworkers toward Los Pinos and the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico trying to divert the struggle against the austerity program so as not to antagonize the government."

The PRT asserts that practical alternatives to these positions must be offered. One of them is to continue the struggle against the high cost of living and to launch a united defense of wages. This unity, they claim, is essential to having any real chances for defeating the austerity plan. It must involve the unity of all forces of the workers and peoples movement that are politically independent of the government.

Overall Solution

The PRT maintains that in addition to rescuing the struggle and mobilization of the workers to resist the offensive by big business, an overall solution must be proposed. According to the PRT, that can be none other than the so-called "proletarian solution to the crisis." In other words, solving problems must not be at the expense of the workers, nor should the workers have to share the cost with management.

PRT members think that while the nationalization should be supported and defended, it is also necessary to demand that the stock of companies owned by banks not be returned to private hands, that bankers not be paid indemnities, that the foreign debt be renounced, that all union rights of bank employees be respected, that a mobile wage scale be implemented, that tax reform be instituted to impose taxes on capitalists, and that profits be frozen.

PSUM Resolution

The secretary of the PSUM Central Committee made a decision on the membership in this party of former members of the Communist Party, stating that "some of the statements made in the document presented are incorrect and offensive. The PSUM draft charter was broadly supported by the rank and file members of the organizations that joined together to form it. At no time was there any 'manipulation' or 'administrative strife,' nor was there 'blackmail.' If these comrades are referring to the achievement of broad agreements among the leaders of the organizations that joined together, that was one of the conditions presupposed by the PSUM charter; it was not a defect."

The secretary asks the Federal District Committee to "take the necessary measures for the individual and voluntary incorporation of the aforementioned former members of the MCL [expansion unknown], and for their placement in the corresponding grassroots organizations, but those new members should be warned that no parallel or fractional political organizations are allowed."

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COUNTRY SECTION

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

PLR ELECTS PRESIDENT--Senator Enzo A. Doldan was elected president of the Radical Liberal Party, PLR, at the meeting which the executive board of this party held last night. Enzo A. Doldan is also PLR's presidential candidate for the next national elections. The meeting of the PLR executive board was presided over by the chairman of the latest PLR convention Luis Maria Vega who curtailed the access of the press to the meeting. Municipal Councilman Ramon Concepcion Lezcano Torres was appointed first vice president and Perso Franco was elected second vice president of the PLR. [Text] [PY150208 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Oct 82 p 10]

POPULATION FIGURE--According to data released yesterday by the national statistics directorate regarding the fourth national census that was held in the country, Paraguay has a population of 3,062,092 inhabitants. The Paraguayan population increased by 665,137 inhabitants from the census that was held in 1972. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Oct 82 p 11 PY]

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